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Tunis hopes to settle Libyan dispute

TUNIS (R) — A Tunisian negotiating team is to go to Libya on Tuesday to continue talks aimed at resolving disputes after a break in diplomatic relations between the two countries last year, the official press said Sunday. "As far as Tunisia is concerned, it does not seek to promote the deadlock or maintain the rift," the daily newspaper of the ruling Democratic Socialist Party said in one of its most conciliatory official statements on the dispute. Tunisia broke relations with Libya in September last year after Tripoli expelled more than 30,000 of its migrant workers and their families. Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk told the parliament on Sunday that Tunisia was ready to resume diplomatic relations with Libya, but that a total of five million dinars (\$5.8 million) of frozen Tunisian assets had already been paid back. Libya froze a total estimated nine million dinars (\$10.5 million) worth of Tunisian assets.

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Shanghai police break up protests

SHANGHAI (R) — Police broke up a crowd of thousands outside the city hall here on Sunday and arrested at least seven youths in the third straight day of major unrest by students demanding more democracy, witnesses said. They said about 200 police squeezed into the crowd on the main waterfront boulevard beside the city hall and seized the youths after forming a cordon to push people away. At least seven youths were forcibly dragged off, apparently for instigating the crowd to push past the cordon. There were tens of thousands of students and onlookers in front of the hall and in adjoining streets when the police acted at about 9:30 p.m. (See earlier story on page 8). Witnesses said police applied armlocks and grabbed hold of the collars of those they arrested. As police started to squeeze into the crowd, students lowered banners demanding democracy and either left or merged into groups of spectators.

Dajani visits Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Interior Minister Rajat Dajani on Sunday made an inspection tour of Madaba district and met with the district's governor and heads of municipal and village councils. At a meeting held in Madaba, the minister called for more participation of the general public in the district's development. District Governor Abdul Halim Al-Awad reviewed different elements of the current five-year development plan for Madaba district where JD 51 million will be spent on different sectors. Later Mr. Dajani inspected police stations and civil defence centres at Madaba and Diban. He was accompanied on the tour by Amman Governor Ahmad Al-Hindawi and local officials.

Clergy quarrel over Bethlehem cleaning

JERUSALEM (R) — The Christmas cleaning of a Bethlehem church on the traditional site of Jesus' birth is causing tension between Greek Orthodox and Armenian clergy, each claiming the right to wield the broom. Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, Diodoros I, told the Jerusalem Post on Sunday he would cancel his annual holiday procession to Bethlehem if his followers were prevented from cleaning a disputed area of the 1,600-year-old Church of the Nativity. The Armenians say the Greeks have no right to sweep a sooty three-by-one-metre wall over the church grotto. They want it to remain untouched until the dispute is settled.

Mubarak and Saudi prince meet in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday met Saudi Prince Faisal, his third meeting in less than two weeks with a member of the Saudi royal family despite absence of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Prince Faisal, a son of King Fahd, is in Egypt to attend meetings of the Arab Football Federation opening on Tuesday. The federation meetings are being boycotted by Libya and Syria. Egypt's national Middle East News Agency said Mr. Mubarak gave Prince Faisal a message to convey to King Fahd. The contents were not disclosed. Mr. Mubarak earlier this month met two of King Fahd's brothers, Prince Turki and Prince Salman.

Shultz 'very likely' to meet ANC chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz "very likely" will meet with Oliver Tambo next month if the president of the African National Congress (ANC) visits here, a government official said Sunday. The official also noted that Mr. Tambo has not followed through in the past with plans to visit Washington. The ANC is the main guerrilla group seeking to end the white minority government in Pretoria. Michael Armacost, under-secretary of state for political affairs, was quoted as saying the ANC "obviously one of the most important important players involved in South Africa" after a three-hour meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, with leaders of the exiled and outlawed group.

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King returns after working visits to S. Arabia, Kuwait

Masri stays behind in Kuwait for talks on OIC summit before proceeding to Tunis

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman Sunday evening after a working visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for talks with their leaders on the current Arab situation and prospects for convening an Arab summit.

The King began the two-day trip with a visit on Saturday to Dammam, Saudi Arabia, for talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz and arrived in Kuwait early Sunday for a three-hour stay during which he held discussions with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Arab diplomatic sources quoted by AP said the King sought to coordinate policies with King Fahd and Sheikh Jaber on Arab issues, led by the Palestinian problem, in advance of the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) to be held in Kuwait on Jan. 26.

The King was received upon arrival in Kuwait by Sheikh Jaber and senior Kuwaiti officials. Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said in an official welcoming statement that the King's talks with Sheikh Jaber were expected to cover coordination of positions on all issues that would be raised at the OIC summit in addition to a general review of the situation in the Arab world.

(Continued on page 3)



His Majesty King Hussein meets King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait during visits he paid to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on Saturday and Sunday (Petra photos)

Israelis seal off Arab home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli forces on Sunday sealed shut the house of a Palestinian alleged to have been involved in a guerrilla group that killed a British tourist and an Israeli businesswoman last April, police said.

Troops sealed the house of Nihad Sandukah in the Wadi Josz neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. Israeli sources claimed Mr. Sandukah was a suspected member of the group that shot dead British Paul Appleby near Jerusalem's Garden Tomb. Revered by some Christian groups as Jesus Christ's burial place, and killed Israeli businesswoman Zehava Ben-Ovadia.

Israeli forces, in an effort to deter Palestinian activists, often demolish and seal houses of suspected nationalists.

In another development, an Israeli source said an Israeli army investigation into reports that Israeli guards beat Palestinian detainees in occupied Gaza failed to produce "any evidence" of mistreatment.



Jordan, Mr. Qassem added, has honoured all its obligations to Arab and foreign countries for this year and maintained its credit rating in foreign dealings. Furthermore, he added, the level of inflation dropped from three per cent last year to 1.2 per cent this year and this "is bound to boost monetary stability and enhance the guarantee of the convertibility of the dinar."

No devaluation of dinar—CBJ governor

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has no intention of devaluing the dinar as there is no reason for doing so since all economic and financial indicators point to a sound economic situation in the Kingdom, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Hussein Al-Qassem said Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting with heads of banks and financial institutions for a year-end briefing, Mr. Qassem said the Jordanian dinar was sound and would not be devalued and added that CBJ's monetary policies had helped strengthen confidence in the national currency.

The CBJ's firm and stable policy has been fruitful and attracted savings from Jordanians living here and abroad, and also drew more foreign investments to Jordan, Mr. Qassem said.

Mr. Qassem said the Kingdom's reserves of gold and foreign currency were strengthened during 1986 and the balance of goods and services improved noticeably. The level of imports fell and Jordanian expatriates' money transfers increased as a direct result of the government's measures aimed at encouraging investment, curbing imports and increasing exports. Mr. Qassem said.

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In his briefing, Mr. Qassem reviewed recent measures adopted by the CBJ to reduce interest rates on loans and deposits and said that the move was in response to the positive economic indications in Jordan and also aimed at encouraging investment projects.

Mr. Qassem referred to foreign banks' dealings in foreign currency and said that the CBJ was keen on providing local banks with their needs of foreign currency for trade deals. The CBJ continues to give guarantees within the law in this respect, Mr. Qassem said.

Amal-PLO battles continue unabated at Shatila camp

Syrians patrol Tripoli • Berri blasts Qadhafi

Combined agency dispatches

BEIRUT — Palestinian fighters and Lebanese Amal militia men traded hit-and-run grenade attacks behind mortar and tank fire barrages around the Shatila refugee camps in Beirut on Sunday while Syrian soldiers patrolled the streets of the northern port city of Tripoli after three days of fighting killed 30 people.

Beirut police said five people were killed and 23 wounded in Sunday's fighting at Shatila between Amal militia men and fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) defending the shantytown.

The echo of exploding shells reverberated across the Lebanese capital overnight and through the morning as the latest round of Amal-Palestinian warfare completed its fourth week.

The PLO and Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal militia issued conflicting claims about ground assaults into each other's territory. But no gains were claimed at west Beirut's beleaguered shantytown that once housed 14,000 Palestinian refugees.

An estimated 9,000 Palestinian refugees of Shatila and the nearby embattled camp of Bourj Al Barajneh have fled to safer districts of Beirut after the eruption of the current PLO-Amal confrontation Nov. 24.

The fighting that erupted on Thursday between militia men of the pro-PLO Tahweed (Islamic Unification) movement and Syrian soldiers in Tripoli was an offshoot of the "camps war."

Syria and Amal say PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is trying to reassert his fighting strength in Lebanon, while Mr. Arafat says Damascus and its militia allies are trying to drive Palestinians out of Lebanon. Tahweed is believed to be closely aligned with the PLO.

Tripoli residents told Reuters on Sunday that Lebanon's second largest city, with a population of about half a million, was quiet after 36 hours of continuous fighting.

"We hear no firing at all today, not even one bullet," said Saeed Tawekil, a 40-year-old car dealer. The streets remained tense, with Syrian armoured vehicles and steel-helmeted Syrians on constant patrol. Few shops opened and residents said there were long queues in the rubble-strewn streets outside bakeries.

Syrian commandos had sealed off Tripoli as other soldiers fought house-to-house battles with Tahweed.

Police said Syrian tanks and armoured vehicles finally overran the last pocket of resistance on Saturday. Beirut radios said at least 30 people died in the fighting, the worst in Tripoli for 15 months.

Beirut newspapers quoted an unnamed security source close to the Syrian army in north Lebanon as saying the Syrian crackdown was to apprehend "a group of fleeing outlaws who managed to return to Tripoli recently."

There was no identification of the alleged outlaws in the newspapers which further quoted the Syrian source as saying "the case is now closed. It's over."

The Syrian army maintains an estimated 25,000 troops in northern and eastern Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping constant patrol.

(Continued on page 3)

Chad says 400 Libyans killed in north

N'DJAMENA (AP) — Pro-government forces launched a counter-offensive against Libyan-backed fighters in the northern Tibesti region, killing 400 Libyan forces and taking one besieged town, Chad Radio announced Sunday.

Fighting was continuing around the towns of Wour and Zouar, in the western area of Tibesti, while at Bardai, in the centre, "the enemy turned back in catastrophe" after heavy losses of men and equipment, the radio said, quoting a statement by the Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT).

The statement said one man was killed and three injured on the government side.

The counter-offensive answers a Libyan land and air attack Saturday morning in the mountainous Tibesti region of northern Chad, which has been under Libyan occupation since 1983.

Libyan soldiers and Chad rebels led by Sheikh Ibn Omar are pitted against forces loyal to former rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei, whose troops turned against Libya in late October and joined the government.

Libya's official JANA news agency said that Chad government troops, aided by France and the United States, had crossed the 16th parallel which divides the Libyan-occupied north from the government-controlled south to join Mr. Goukouni's forces in the fighting.

There have been reports from the capital city of N'Djamena that government troops were making their way north, but no official word that they were now fighting alongside Goukouni's men.

Mr. Goukouni is said to be under house arrest in Tripoli.

JANA said French Transall-141 planes dropped arms to government forces as they crossed the 16th parallel.

France sent 700 troops to southern Chad in February after Libyan planes strafed N'Djamena airport, but officials in Paris affirm that France's "Operation Sparrow Hawk" will not move north of the 16th parallel to actively attack anti-government forces.

"The mission of Operation Sparrow Hawk in Chad was perfectly defined" and "nothing has led the government to modify it," Premier Jacques Chirac said Saturday.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said Sunday that "the government position remains that expressed Saturday by the premier."

On Wednesday, French cargo planes dropped supplies and ammunition into the Tibesti region, near the Libyan frontier. The U.S. State Department announced Thursday that it has begun providing \$15 million in emergency assistance to Chad, at the request of the government of President Hissene Habre.

Earlier on Sunday, JANA quoted a "responsible source" at the Foreign Ministry in Tripoli as saying Libya had "nothing to do with the conflict in Chad."

JANA said the denial statement was made in response to reports on the Chad fighting carried by media "hostile" to Libya and to attempts to link Tripoli with the fighting.

It said Libya reaffirmed that "it will not remain with arms folded in response to any threat from any source aimed at its security and territorial integrity."

Iran says 80 killed in Iraqi air raid

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said on Sunday its warplanes bombed military targets in several areas in western Iran and the official Iranian news agency said 80 people were killed in the western city of Kermanshah (Bakhtar).

An Iraqi military communiqué released in Baghdad said the targets were an air base and military camps in Kermanshah and the nearby city of Dezful.

It said a considerable number of Iranian soldiers were killed, and an airstrip, bunkers and two helicopters destroyed.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said 80 people were killed in Kermanshah and several houses destroyed.

It did not comment on the Iraqis' report that they attacked Dezful, but said Iraqi jets bombed Islamabad, also in western Iran, killing a number of people there and destroying houses.

A spokesman for Iran's war information headquarters was quoted as saying Iranian artillery would shell Iraqi military and economic centres in retaliation.

In the past, Iran has retaliated for Iraqi attacks on its cities by shelling Iraqi cities for 48 hours.

The Iranian spokesman said Iran would retaliate with 24 hours of long-range artillery fire on Iraqi military and industrial areas, starting at 1630 GMT.

Kamal Kharrazi, the spokesman quoted by IRNA, said the planned 24-hour shelling of Iraqi targets would be extended if there were more attacks on Iranian cities.

Kharrazi also said Iran was ready to launch its promised major ground offensive against Iraq and was only waiting for the political situation to mature.

U.S. denies sending new feelers to Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A published report says the United States has sent new messages seeking improved relations with the Iranian government, but a State Department spokesman denied the story Saturday night.

The Washington Post, quoting anonymous State Department officials in Sunday editions, said the messages were sent in late November or early December, after the furor erupted over the administration's secret arms sales to Tehran.

The messages, according to the newspaper, were routed through Switzerland, which looks after U.S. interests in Iran, and through other governments friendly to Tehran.

Pete Martinez, a State Department spokesman, said, "The story is without substance." A senior State Department official said the messages had been stopped.

At least some of the messages were an attempt to discuss U.S. hostages in Lebanon, including the case of "one American hostage who is reported to be ill," said the Post, which did not identify the hostage.

Five Americans are believed held by radical groups which are loyal to Iran.

Three State Department officials, who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. government has periodically informed Iran through friendly governments that the United States would like an improvement in relations.

Reacting to the Washington Post's story, officials quoted by AP said the messages were passed through West European and Japanese leaders, who were asked to convey the U.S. interest on their travels to Tehran, if asked.

But the officials said they were not aware of any new messages. One senior official said the feelers were halted after last month's disclosure that American weapons had secretly been shipped to Tehran.

Iran's prime minister said Sunday that American help for Iraq would only encourage the Iranian people to win the Gulf war and earn a "sacred vengeance" over Washington.

"The hands of the Yankees are stained with the blood of our war martyrs," Prime Minister Hussein Musavi told Tehran Radio in an interview.

"They have shamelessly stretched these blood-stained hands toward us, together with a cake and a Bible. But we know Americans well and have cut off their hands at the appropriate time."

Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani has said former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane carried a cake and a Bible when he secretly visited Tehran in a bid to

(Continued on page 3)

Report says U.S. and Iraq exchanged arms for years. Canadian connection centres on close-knit financial network, page 2

Waite plans new Beirut mission

LONDON (R) — Anglican church envoy Terry Waite said Sunday he plans another Beirut visit soon to seek freedom for hostage Britons and Americans still held in Lebanon.

"I'm planning to go back at the earliest opportunity and I've been in touch with people over there to arrange for my security," he told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Mr. Waite said his mission had become more difficult following charges, which he has strongly denied, that he acted as a middleman for America's alleged arms-for-hostage deal with Iran.

But he said he had resumed contacts with go-betweens to the kidnappers and was awaiting confirmation his visit to Beirut could go ahead. "I really don't know when that will be."

The archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who has always prided himself on his independence as a negotiator, said speculation about his involvement in the arms scandal and meetings with the disgraced presidential adviser Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, added fresh danger to his task.

"The personal danger to me has increased. That's for sure. But I am absolutely sure of my own integrity. I don't want the speculation to destroy my chances of getting others out."

Mr. Waite told Reuters he had no knowledge of the secret arms sales and would never have acted as a conduit between the kidnappers and the White House.

Pakistani opposition sees cabinet move as cosmetic

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani opposition leaders have dismissed as cosmetic the resignation of the cabinet after last week's Karachi riots and called for the sacking of the Sind provincial government.

They said Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo had been planning a reshuffle for months and the resignation was not a response to the riots, which have cost 185 lives.

All 22 federal ministers and 12 secretaries of state offered their resignations on Saturday after a detailed discussion of the law and order situation following the riots.

Benazir Bhutto and other opposition leaders called for the dismissal of the provincial administration in Sind, which includes Karachi.

Parliamentary opposition leader Fakhr Imam told Reuters Mr. Junejo had not acted to halt the "mismanagement and maladministration" responsible for the explosion of violence in Pakistan's biggest city.

"People are totally disillusioned with the government in Karachi. There is a sort of gang warfare going on," he said. "The Sind government has to go, it's just a matter of time. The prime minister has been lamentably short of imagination."

Mr. Junejo, 54, who took office in March 1985 before the end of martial law last December, was expected to appoint a new cabinet within the next few days.

The authorities, and particularly the local administration, have been severely criticised for failing to forestall the widely-forecast eruption of inter-communal tensions last Sunday.

Newspapers and politicians have also complained that the anti-drug-smuggling operation which provided the spark was handled insensitively and that police and troops were slow to respond to pleas for help.

Miss Bhutto, whose father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was deposed by the current President, Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq and then executed, said the cabinet resignation was meant to give an impression that Islamabad was not sitting idle.

Despite crushing a nationwide protest in August by the main opposition forces, which are outside parliament, the government has faced increasing political problems.

W. Germans said helping Libya build, test missiles

HAMBURG (AP) — West German experts are secretly helping Libya build and test missiles in the Libyan desert to replace obsolete Soviet rockets, the weekly magazine Stern reported Sunday.

West German missile and electronics experts are being shipped to Tripoli, the Libyan capital, cannelled as "air freight," then transported 700 kilometres south to a secret desert construction and test range, Stern said.

Electronics experts and engineers from West German research institutes, such as the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics, and high-technology concerns are helping the Libyans construct the missiles and carry out test shots, said Stern.

Stern attributed its report to "documents and records" which it said also were being examined by the Karlsruhe prosecutor's office and West German customs investigators.

It quoted an unidentified spokesman for the prosecutor's office as saying authorities had undertaken two investigations "owing to suspicion of illegal weapons exports and violations of foreign trade laws."

In its report, Stern said Libya's missile construction range was located in the Sahara Desert near the Ghat oasis where the borders of Libya, Niger and Chad converge.

The area is Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi's main headquarters, Stern said.

The new missiles are intended to have a 500-kilometre range and allow the Libyans to place in reserve older Soviet "Scud" and "Frog" rockets which are deemed obsolete, Stern reported.

It said West German missile experts were monitoring tests and evaluating data in computers from West German research institutes.

Stern did not say when the missile project began.

Stern said the Libyan contact man for the West Germans and other Europeans involved in the missile project was Salah Farkash, a brother-in-law of Col. Qadhafi and representative of the state-controlled Technical Industrial Corp. of Tripoli.

Mr. Farkash is also Col. Qadhafi's agent in charge of procuring "nuclear materials for the building of an atomic bomb, plus missiles to carry (bombs)," said Stern.

Arab transport ministers decide on measures to coordinate transport

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab transport ministers, meeting in Tunis, decided on certain measures to be taken for coordinating Arab countries' efforts in the process of manufacturing equipment used in transport, and discussed a pan-Arab transport strategy. Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakqan said here Sunday. He was speaking upon returning to Amman from Tunis where he led Jordan's delegation to the ministers' meeting.

Mr. Dakqan said that the ministers discussed means of supporting Arab transport federations, and recommended that a 30 per cent discount should be granted on the cost of travel for Arab sports and youth groups. The ministers also decided to give pan-Arab support to Arab federations of maritime transport, and to Arab ports.

The ministers passed a number of decisions concerning the coordination of Arab countries' stand at international and regional conferences, and appealed to Arab governments to honour their financial commitments to the Arab Academy for the Maritime Transport, which offers training to Arab personnel specialising in shipping and maritime transport.

But, Minister Dakqan said, that the most important decision was a warning which the ministers served to foreign nations that they should abstain from operating flights to Qaladiah Airport of occupied Arab Jerusalem. The ministers requested that the Arab Air Transport Organisation follow up the implementation of the resolution.

Arab Transport Union (ATU) Secretary General Abdullah Dmour also returned to Amman after attending the ministers' meeting in Tunis. He said that the meeting discussed the creation of an Arab corporation to be entrusted with classifying Arab vessels and ships. The ministers

also addressed a memorandum by the ATU's general secretariat for removing obstacles impeding trade and travel by land throughout the Arab countries. Mr. Dmour said the ministers followed up the implementation of resolutions and recommendations made at previous meetings and discussed the activities of Arab transport unions.

Referring to the ministers' decision to warn foreign countries against using Qaladiah Airport, Mr. Dmour said that Israel has been seeking to transform the occupied Arab airport into an international airport in total violation of United Nations resolutions and international laws.

The ministers elected an executive board to handle their resolutions; the board consists of ministers from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Iraq and Morocco. They agreed to meet again by the middle of 1987.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan presents awards to members of First Royal Armoured Battalion on Sunday.

Prince Hassan patronises 36th anniversary of First Royal Armoured Battalion

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday patronised a ceremony marking the 36th anniversary of the First Royal Armoured Battalion.

Prince Hassan watched a target shooting exercise with live ammunition on stationary targets and several other activities. At the

outset of the ceremony, the battalion commander made a speech welcoming the Prince and outlining the troops' duties and training programmes.

Later Prince Hassan distributed cups and prizes in the presence of Army Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers and invited guests.

Jordan, Egypt agree on regulations for Egyptian labourers in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and Egyptian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Elhab Wahbeh, met here Sunday, and discussed issues pertaining to the employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan and cooperation in labour-related affairs between Jordan and Egypt.

The meeting came in the wake of a visit which Mr. Haj Hassan made to Egypt during which an agreement was concluded on the employment of Egyptian manpower in the Kingdom.

According to the minister, the two sides agreed that the Egyptian workers should acquire certificates clearly indicating that they had passed trade eligibility tests in accordance with regulations adopted by their country and to supply evidence that they were not wanted by the law.

Three months will be allowed for all Egyptian workers in Jordan to acquire work permits to maintain their present jobs, the minister said. He added that the agreement with the Egyptian government also provides for bilateral cooperation in vocational training, social security matters and occupational safety measures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet forms team to aviation meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has formed Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Air Transport Union meeting due to open in Cairo on Dec. 26. The delegation to the four day meeting will be led by Mr. Amin Al Hussein, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority. The cabinet also decided to appoint Mr. Mohammad Ali Farid Al Saad as an honorary consul of Cyprus in Jordan. Jordan and Cyprus have not yet established embassies in each other's capital.

Amman Municipality gets finance

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh Sunday received JD 10,000 from the Queen Alia College in support of the municipality's efforts to beautify the capital and to improve services to the public. A cheque for the sum was handed to the mayor by Mr. Tayseer Zamel, a member of the board of trustees of the community college at a ceremony held at Amman Municipality.

Jerash meeting reviews development plan

JERASH (Petra) — District governor of Jerash, Mr. Hussein Habashneh Sunday reviewed projects to be implemented in his district over the coming five years at a meeting with heads of local departments. Department heads spoke in detail about the projects mentioning difficulties that may impede the work on these projects. A total of JD 43 million will be spent in the Jerash district in accordance with the national 1986-1990 five year development plan.

Joint team completes excavations

KARAK (Petra) — A joint archaeological team from the Department of Antiquities and Canada has completed an excavation season in the Karak region. They have been excavating at Ghor Safi, Fida, Dahel and Wadi Tlaah, according to Mr. Nabil Baqa'in, director of the antiquities department here. He said that the team conducted a survey for locating archaeological sites in these areas and unearthed sites that date back to the bronze, iron, Roman and Byzantine eras. The survey, he said, lasted for seven weeks.

Ministry to distribute fruit-tree saplings

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud announced Sunday that the Ministry of Agriculture will distribute fruit-tree saplings free of charge to farmers now implementing an agricultural project in rain-fed regions supervised by the ministry. He said that farmers should call at various agriculture departments in their regions to obtain their requirements of these saplings.

Egyptian official visits Petra

AQABA (Petra) — Governor of southern Sinai, Mr. Mohammad Afifi, now on a visit to Aqaba, Sunday visited the ancient Nabatean city of Petra and was briefed on its history. He also inspected tourist areas and facilities at the ancient site. Mr. Afifi was accompanied by Dr. Dureid Mahasneh, secretary general of the Aqaba Region Authority, Egypt's general consul in Aqaba and other officials. Mr. Afifi, who is accompanied by an official delegation, began a visit to Aqaba Saturday and intends to hold talks with local officials on promoting tourism between Aqaba and Sinai. Earlier this month, Minister of Information Mohammad Khatib signed an agreement with his Egyptian counterpart, Mr. Fouad Sultana, for the establishment of a joint company to develop touristic attractions on the Gulf of Aqaba.

Ministry report charges Israel with confiscating 30% of Gaza Strip land

AMMAN (Petra) — A report issued by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs reveals that the Israeli authorities have confiscated 126,273 dunums of land in the occupied Gaza Strip since June 1967.

According to the ministry report, the Israeli authorities have introduced a great deal of changes in the economy and life of the people in the Gaza Strip. The Arab territory is becoming completely dependent on Israel's economy.

It said that heavy taxes have been imposed on the Arab residents and a ban was imposed on the export of Arab agricultural and industrial products and that the door was wide open for the distribution of Israeli products in the towns and villages of the occupied territory.

Above all, the report said, the Israelis have been employing Arab manpower in Israeli factories and farms at only 40 per cent of the Israeli workers' wages. In addition, the report notes that the Israeli occupation authorities have imposed control on the water resources in the Gaza Strip something which dangerously affects Arab agricultural production.

The report adds that the area represents nearly 30 per cent of the total area of land in and around the Gaza Strip which was inhabited by 510,000 Arabs.

According to the report, the past nine months witnessed the confiscation of 5,792 dunums of land with the purpose of separating the Gaza Strip from Rafah and the Sinai in the south and creating an uninhabited zone for establishing Jewish settlements.

The Jewish agency which supervises the settlement programmes, spends around \$4.9 million annually on establishing settlements in Gaza Strip and in Hebron in the occupied Arab territory, the report said.

It noted that the Jewish agency

has been raising additional funds for the sake of building at least six more Jewish settlements south of the Gaza Strip as a buffer zone separating this strip from Sinai, and this will cost an additional \$1.5 million.

At the same time, the Israeli authorities are going ahead with plans for forcing the indigenous Arab population from their homeland, the report added. It said that as a result of these arbitrary measures, the number of inhabitants in the Gaza Strip has now dropped to 356,800 down from more than 500,000 in 1967.

The total number of Jewish settlers now stand at 10,000 but the Jewish agency hopes to increase the number to 30,000 by 1990, the report noted.

German professor discusses Amman architecture, its problems and potential

By Josephine Zananiri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although Professor Jan Cejka, designed only a few buildings during his years in Jordan, he left behind an indelible influence in architectural design through his work at the Jordan University. He recently returned to Amman for a short lecture tour, and took the opportunity to update himself with the latest architectural developments in the country.

"When I first started teaching in Jordan around 1970, there were few decent buildings; most of the architecture was anonymous, faceless, with imported elements such as the pitched roof," says the German professor. Shortly after that a renewed cycle of architecture was set in motion by what Prof. Cejka describes as, "the remarkable work of Jassir Toukan and Raseem Badran."

Both architects created some of Amman's most lively and spirited villas; Mr. Badran designed the Handal and Khoury residences, and Mr. Toukan, the Rizk villa.

Based upon this pioneering work, "the new generation of architects were able to build something better, and quickly, picked up the style — a clean, cubic, geometric form with adequate openings breaking up the mass and utilising traditional forms."

"Whilst on the whole the quality of architecture has improved," during the last decade, adds Prof. Cejka, he cites two negative aspects to the contemporary urban landscape. The existing urban planning enforces a regimental, British style development with regulated set-backs and strict adherence to form. Compact housing developments, he points out, are "restricted under existing bylaws." Those developments such as the Rabat housing scheme by Bilal Hammad, Raseem Badran's low cost housing

complex for the Fuheis Cement Company, or the Islamic Bank housing area (near Al Ra'i newspaper), which the professor finds a little theatrical, have "enlivened the city landscape and established closely knit and integrated schemes reminiscent of the Arab atmosphere."

As a consequence of the standard set-backs, adds Prof. Cejka, the Amman landscape has become, "repetitive and dull," and architecture itself rather restrained; "there is nothing daring," he concludes. Abdoun, for example, has houses and villas of quality, but "they are isolated" in the disjointed canopy of "of styles and architectural concepts."

Changes in the municipal regulations could lead to a livelier landscape, suggests Prof. Cejka. "In Germany," says the professor, "competitions for urban housing schemes are not restricted by building regulations; however, the project which wins first prize, then sets the regulations for the area or piece of land."

The less affluent quarters of Amman have a stronger urban fabric, he points out, as these suburbs evolved often with little or no regard to building codes. "Streets grew as people walked, not at the dictates of the motor car; rough housing developed into permanent housing."

Prof. Cejka lauds the achievements of the Urban Development Department (UDD) and its housing upgrading scheme. Encompassing several projects spread throughout the poorer areas of Amman, the UDD assists in legalising ownership of previously squatter districts, and provides basic services — water, electricity, and sewerage. Prof. Cejka sees "this as the best way to revitalise low income areas. People are provided with the basic infrastructure according to their means and then allowed to proceed."

Renewal of the city and old urban areas "is a complex problem," he stresses. However, a "few decisions which would cost very little could enliven the commercial district." He cites the example of using any of Amman's wonderful stairs for a cafe area, or allowing outdoor cafes on open land in the downtown district. "People would be encouraged to sit down and catch their breath," he says. Ornamentation, he adds, does not result in a lively city; "It is the people lingering in cafes, strolling, and enjoying the monuments of the city who create the ambience of the city."

Preserving the older dwellings in early residential quarters is complicated, too, says Prof. Cejka. "We enjoy the old quarters of Amman," he adds; "the narrow streets which suddenly turn or widen and the overall uneven texture give a subtle visual quality to those areas." He believes protection of the urban tissue is of paramount importance. "For example," he continues, "if a derelict building is demolished it should not be replaced by high rise."

Prof. Cejka is remembered not only for his contribution to architecture in the Kingdom, but also for his delicate water colours illustrating Jordan's native flora, as well as his extensive cataloguing of these colourful and varied indigenous plants. Whilst living in Jordan, the professor experimented with many varieties of native plants in pots on his balcony, and discovered many are quite good for gardening.

He suggests the establishment of a school for landscape gardening in the Middle East, as no institutions for landscaping now exist in the Arab World.

Prof. Cejka's work in Amman includes the prestigious King Abdullah Mosque (although he remains not entirely satisfied with the end result), and the Amman villa, a residence which sets a new pace in villa design with its clean simple use of stone and tight control of internal spacing.

Canadian agricultural expert discusses joint ventures with Jordanian officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A leading Canadian expert on agriculture winds up a visit to Jordan Monday after holding talks with senior Jordanian officials and the private sector on prospects of initiating joint ventures in agriculture-related affairs.

Mr. Eugene Whelan, who is a former minister of agriculture, was received by key ministers with whom he assessed means of contributing to agricultural development projects in the Kingdom.

The scope of cooperation provides for various domains including poultry industry, veterinary and livestock services, marine science, and fishery development and wheat planting project in the southern parts of Jordan. Mr. Whelan, president of the Agricultural International Associates of Canada (AIDAC), told the Jordan Times on Sunday.

He said the reason of his visit was to explore possibilities to establish "sincere cooperation" in agriculture-related fields between Jordan and Canada.

Earlier, during his visit, Mr. Whelan was received by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply

Rajai Muasher, Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Salim Al Lawzi and President of South Agriculture Company Suleiman Arar.

During his talks with Mr. Muasher, Mr. Whelan offered his company and his associates' readiness towards setting up joint ventures of technical assistance with Jordan. The meeting was attended by Canadian ambassador in Amman, Gary Hamman.

Earlier on Sunday, Mr. Whelan was received separately by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and President of the Jordan Valley Authority Munther Haddadin, in addition to a number of private sector businessmen.

Dr. Kanaan briefed Mr. Whelan on the Kingdom's policy, as envisaged in the 1986-1990 National Development Plan, which aims to develop and expand agriculture processing projects, afforestation, arid land reclamation and reservoir construction. Dr. Kanaan referred to the possibility of private sector concerns benefitting from the AIDAC's overseas activities, the Jordan news agency, Petra, reported.

In his interview with the Jordan

Times, Mr. Whelan said he found in Amman certain projects which "are interesting but need extensive work in order to be operational." People in Jordan have high hopes in implementing bold ventures, a target which could be scored through long-term and efficient planning, said Mr. Whelan, who is accompanied on his visit to Jordan by the associates' Director of International Relations Abdur Yusuf.

Referring to the wheat-planting project in Al Deisi region in the southeast parts of the Kingdom, Mr. Whelan said he did not believe such a project could bear fruit by only extending "government subsidies."

Nevertheless, any success to the project, could be achieved through a long-term well-planned scheme aimed at securing optimum benefit from the project. Mr. Whelan favoured rather a presently designed five-year term scheme to be "expanded to 10 or 15 years in order to provide ample time for results to ripen."

Mr. Whelan cited his country's successful schemes in this regard. He referred to flood-irrigation, chiefly used for arid land reclamation, which has been conducted in Canada since 1914.

King returns after visits to S. Arabia and Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

the Arab World. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King had instructed the foreign minister, Mr. Taher Al Masri, to stay behind in Kuwait to discuss with his Kuwaiti counterpart issues related to the Islamic summit. Mr. Masri will leave Kuwait for Tunis on Monday to attend an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council which is scheduled to discuss the ongoing conflict in Lebanon between Palestinians and the Shi'ite Amal militia.

Arab leaders, who are also members of the 46-nation OIC, are expected to hold a meeting on the Arab World. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King had instructed the foreign minister, Mr. Taher Al Masri, to stay behind in Kuwait to discuss with his Kuwaiti counterpart issues related to the Islamic summit. Mr. Masri will leave Kuwait for Tunis on Monday to attend an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council which is scheduled to discuss the ongoing conflict in Lebanon between Palestinians and the Shi'ite Amal militia.

Arab leaders, who are also members of the 46-nation OIC, are expected to hold a meeting on

the fringes of the Kuwaiti gathering if an Arab summit could not be held before Jan. 26, according to well-informed sources in Amman.

The Arab leaders attending the OIC summit include Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whose country's membership in the Arab League was suspended after his predecessor, Anwar Sadat, signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Reports from Saudi Arabia said the King's talks with King Fahd dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab World and the Gulf region, and international issues of mutual interest. There was no elaboration of the reports,

but sources in Amman said Saturday that the two leaders' talks were also expected to cover their efforts to settle Syrian-Iraqi differences and clear the way for an Arab summit.

The King was accompanied on the visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker in addition to Foreign Minister Masri.

The King and the delegation were received upon arrival here by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and high-ranking civil and Armed Forces officials.

Amal-PLO battles continue unabated

(Continued from page 1)

mandate from the Arab League. In Beirut, meanwhile, Amal leader Berri has responded to renewed charges by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi that the Lebanese Shi'ites were fighting the Palestinians to create a mini-state allied with Israel in South Lebanon.

"Don't ever imagine that these words came from an insane man. He is a sane Israeli defending his own people," Mr. Berri said of the Libyan leader in a statement released by his office in Beirut.

"Any dealing with the Libyan regime is beneath a sacrifice," Mr. Berri declared.

He stressed that the resistance fighters who fought to force Israel to withdraw from most of South Lebanon after the 1982 invasion were predominantly Shi'ites, and not Palestinians or Libyans.

Although Amal is supported by Syria, Libya's closest ally, Col.

Qadhafi has come out openly against the militia in the war for control of Lebanon's refugee camps.

In his latest tirade, Col. Qadhafi called on all Lebanese youths to take up arms against the Shi'ite sect and described Mr. Berri as an "Israeli agent."

Col. Qadhafi last week offered to provide arms "without reservations" for an anti-Amal campaign to block what he called the creation of an Israeli-backed Shi'ite mini-state in South Lebanon.

The latest Shatila casualties upped to 518 killed and 1,295 wounded the known toll of the PLO-Amal fighting in Beirut and South Lebanon since Nov. 24.

Reuters adds from Baghdad: Egyptian opposition party leaders denounced attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon during a meeting here on Sunday with Mr. Arafat, a PLO source said.

The delegation, led by Labour Socialist Party leader Ibrahim Shukri and including all five opposition parties, arrived in Baghdad Saturday night for talks with Mr. Arafat in an attempt to end "camps war."

The source told Reuters that the Egyptian delegation, after being briefed by Mr. Arafat on the situation in the refugee camps, "expressed support for the Palestinian people and denunciation for the attacks carried out against them."

The Egyptian delegation visited Damascus last week and met President Hafez Al Assad, but no results were announced.

The source said Mr. Arafat stressed on the necessity of ending the fighting and an active role by Arab countries.

Arab foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting in Tunis on Monday, their second in two weeks, to try to end the 11-weeks of fighting.

U.S. denies sending new messages to Iran

(Continued from page 1)

improve relations. Last week, two White House officials told AP that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) gave Iraq detailed information about Iranian defenses.

The information included data from sensitive U.S. satellite reconnaissance photography, useful to Iraqi pilots in their bombing raids on Iranian industrial targets.

The help was provided even as Washington secretly shipped weapons to Tehran.

Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence

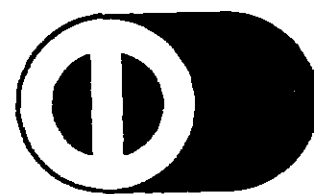
Committee has summoned a key player in the Iran arms controversy in an effort to determine whether any money from the sales went to Nicaraguan rebels, a congressional source said Saturday.

The committee wants retired Major-General Richard V. Secord to meet with the panel behind closed doors to explain what happened to money Iran paid for the sales and deposited in a Swiss bank.

Last month, Attorney General Edwin Meese said last month that \$10 million to \$30 million of the sales went to help Nicaragua's

contra rebels. The Senate Intelligence Committee is also looking into the Iran-contra affair. Its members say they cannot determine how much, if any, of the money went to the contras. Senate investigators said \$4 million to \$10 million may be a more accurate figure.

Gen. Secord, 54, played a role in negotiations that led to the shipment of arms to Tehran and the release of three American hostages by Lebanese captors with links to Iran, according to Manucher Ghorbanifar, an Iranian who arranged the contacts with the Tehran government.



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Timely mission

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's just-concluded visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been a timely mission for Arab cooperation and solidarity. His talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz and Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah came in the wake of His Majesty's recent call for an Arab summit to be convened as soon as possible to review a whole range of Arab issues which threaten Arab security and future.

We support the proposition that an Arab summit should precede the Islamic summit conference which is scheduled to be held in Kuwait on Jan. 26, 1981. It would be most unfortunate if Arab leaders could not be forthcoming on the idea of an urgent summit prior to the convening of the Islamic summit. Not that the Islamic summit is less important but because it is vital for the Arab leaders to proceed to that conference with coordination and solidarity among them more secured. The fate and outcome of the Islamic conference is indeed on balance and dependent on a united Arab front. A successful Arab summit therefore could very well assure a successful Islamic summit. Conversely, inability to hold such a summit does not augur well for the prospects of the Kuwait meeting.

Arab differences, especially the rift between Iraq and Syria, are among the prominent issues confronting the Arab leaders. But an Arab summit when it is convened has to address other pressing issues as well. No one could be fully satisfied with patch-up remedies which could become easy prey to changing circumstances and challenges. That is why an Arab summit has to address the heart and soul of Arab differences on all fronts and on all levels. Differences between sovereign Arab states are inevitable and there is no way to prevent such differences as long as the Arab regimes worship so deeply their sovereignty and construe as a threat to their independence any attempt by Arab countries under the auspices of the Arab League to make some meaningful and effective probe into their seemingly exclusive prerogatives. Issues like the on-going fighting between various factions and groups in Lebanon need to be addressed and addressed urgently. Likewise, the peace process in the Middle East still awaits Arab consensus on how to proceed on that path. The Iran-Iraq war is an issue which had eluded the Arabs' serious attention for much too long and we all know now how the prolongation of that war has exacerbated the conflict and allowed even Israel an opportunity to exploit it to the detriment of both Iraq and Iran.

The Arab leaders have the power to put into effect new and progressive ideas to further advance the goal of Arab cooperation and solidarity. It is incumbent on them to act to lay the foundation for progressive and much needed Arab action. The time is now, and the venue to do just that is obviously the long overdue Arab summit.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: An offensive of goodwill

KING Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz are part of Jordan's offensive to mobilise Arab efforts and resources for the sake of taking joint action towards resolving Arab problems and confronting the common threats. It is natural for the two leaders who are concerned about the interests of the Arab Nation to maintain consultation and coordination of steps leading to unified action and an Arab summit meeting. Inter-Arab differences have been giving our common enemies the chance to tamper with our rights and our interests and, therefore, a unified action would deter such enemies from taking any hostile action against this nation. An Arab summit and a unified action should be taken now if the Arab countries are to preserve their rights and their existence. The longer the procrastination in taking a unified measure the more dangerous the situation will be for the Arab Nation because the enemies are gaining from time. Any serious efforts for pooling Arab resources and potentials should be taken now and any action for confronting challenges and threats should be immediately embarked on if the Arab Nation is genuine in its drive to safeguard its rights. The Arabs have more than once called for the establishment of peace based on justice but so far they have received no response and their enemies are pursuing their efforts and their aggression. It should be said that once the Arab weakness and disunity disappear these enemies are bound to heed our calls and to respond favourably to peaceful moves.

Al Dustour: Great significance

KING Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia comes at a difficult time for the Arab Nation which is now facing challenges from its common enemies. The King's talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz are expected to focus on these challenges and proper measures to handle them. The two monarchs are expected to discuss the Gulf war and its repercussions and negative results on the Arab people and their interests; and they are bound to discuss the Lebanese question where the civil war has been going on for more than 11 years. The two leaders' talks are within the context of continuous consultations but, in view of the rapid developments in the Arab region, the talks take on an added importance. These talks come at a time when the Arabs are in need of unity and agreement so that they can handle their problems. Perhaps an Arab summit is needed now more than at any time in the past because we want the Arab leaders to reach consensus on many issues and find effective measures for deterring their enemies. We look on King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia as a development of great significance in view of the circumstances surrounding the Arab Nation and we hope that the two leaders will arrive at a formula that can help re-establish Arab solidarity and joint action.

Sawt Al Shaab: Goodwill mission

JORDAN has always been seeking to rally the Arabs for the common good and for enabling them to join their efforts and their endeavours which are needed now in the face of escalating aggression by their common enemies. King Hussein has been spearheading these efforts and holding consultations with Arab leaders for the sake of reaching an agreement among them on an Arab summit and on joint action. The King's visit to Saudi Arabia came in the context of these endeavours and in view of the persisting differences and divisions among Arab countries. His visit was motivated by the indifference that some Arab countries have been showing towards the imminent danger, and his talks with the Saudi monarch are designed to bring the Arabs together again at a summit meeting, and also aimed at re-establishing solidarity among Arab countries. Through such meetings the King hopes that he would persuade the Arab leaders of the need for agreement on solutions for their persisting problems. The King's relentless efforts in this respect and his continued search for solutions of Arab problems represent a hope for the Arab masses.

Humanitas: New hope for mankind

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

HUMANITAS is the foundation of the conceptual edifice of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) which has just concluded its seventh and final plenary session in Amman under the co-chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Highness Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. Humanitas also has been the guiding light which has aided the navigation of the commission ever since its embryonic inception in 1981, when Crown Prince Hassan proposed to the United Nations that it was high time to reflect afresh on and eventually articulate and render operational a new humanitarian order. The formulation and adoption of the Crown Prince's innovative conception as a functional resolution with definitive terms of reference took place in the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1983. Ever since, humanitas has continued to motivate the commission in its uncharted course in search of a new and coordinated humanitarian perspective.

Thus the message of the commission is simple as its ideals and objectives are pure. Man, it cries out, must henceforth broaden his horizon and amend his perspective in his quest for across-the-board development. Now is the time to act, the commission cautions, or never as man and his environment are on the threshold of ominous and hitherto unforeseen perils of universal proportions. The commission is thus sounding the alarm for the international community to act and act now.

To the developing countries, the message embodies the call for the articulation and formulation of new orientations in their on-going struggle for general development with a view to make man the centre of all endeavours and the very element that matters most in the complex equation of human development. And if man should matter most, then it follows that the satisfaction of his basic needs must come first. The unflattering obsession with just annual GNP rises and the idolisation of rapid economic and industrial development at any cost must give way to humanistic and ethical considerations where man and his welfare is what really matters. One may recall in this context the efforts of the ILO in the late seventies to sway economic and industrial planning in developing countries in the direction of fulfilling the basic needs of peoples and to rechannel all development efforts in the direction of man and his welfare. But, alas, all those efforts and appeals went unheeded and had since passed into oblivion.

One could list among the basic needs of peoples everywhere a whole range of endeavours from the need to eradicate disease, famine and unemployment to providing public housing, social and medical securities, public education and the protection of the environment. Surely the issues of desertification, deforestation and drug abuse would fall squarely within the scope of the basic needs of peoples whether in the First, Second or Third worlds. In the same vein, the ever-growing gap between the rich and the poor in practically all the countries of the world is something that needs to be

redressed with a new humanistically coordinated perspective.

The dire malignant neglect of the developing countries by the developed world is a contemptuous phenomenon which is reminiscent of the equally dire neglect of ghetto areas in urban industrial cities of the developed world by their neighbours, the upper and middle class districts. It was ultimately discovered, albeit later than sooner and after much bloodshed, riots and destruction, that no area of a metropolis is an island which can remain forever isolated and immune from the dangers and threats posed by the neglected slum districts.

Likewise, in a fast diminishing world where the relative physical proximity of the developing countries to the developed countries is on par with the physical proximity of the ghetto slum areas to upper and middle class districts in urban cities of the First world, it is perhaps a twist of irony to watch the developed world so contemptuous in their dereliction of their collective duties towards their neighbouring countries. Must they see more death, fire and destruction coming their way from the poor countries before they would lift a finger and act to redress the mushrooming socio-economic and political injustices in their next door neighbouring countries? Thus, disease, famine, poverty, drugs and even terror will surely transfer from the developing countries to the developed ones if the problems of the former are left unattended for much longer.

Even in the domain of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the burgeoning use of nuclear power in the developing world with technical assistance from the developed world would ultimately begin to affect life and environment in the very developed world which provided the means to realise such use in the first place. Soon, the probabilities of having accidents at nuclear plants in developing countries would materialise and begin to their immeasurable tolls in life and material everywhere. It would certainly be a classic example of a man-made disaster, if man in the developed world continues the rapid resort to nuclear energy as an alternate source of energy without a parallel consideration of the implications for man and his environment. And lest one forgets, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Soviet Union in April, released radiation that surpassed all the radiation that was released by all the testing and non-testing nuclear bombs that were detonated thus far. What man-made disaster could ever surpass such accidents which stand to become a common occurrence if policy makers are allowed to continue to subordinate man and his life and environment to socio-economic developments? Will mankind wait for even bigger accidents to occur before the policymakers in the world begin to take man more seriously and make him the centre of their coordinated perspectives?

And when the developed world begins to emulate the developed world in the exploitation of nuclear energy, surely, and before we know it, man-made disasters from the deployment of nuclear plants

would ensue in those countries as well and at even more accelerated rate and dimension.

In the same vein, when one thinks about man-made disasters occurring in the developing world, one must bear in mind the fatal accident which had occurred at the Bhopal Union Carbide plant in India in December of 1984. And how about the harrowing disease of AIDS, the remedy of which is nowhere in sight till this day and at any time in the near future? What proof do we have that AIDS is not a man-made disaster? Is it not true that AIDS is a new malady hitherto unknown to man ancient as well as contemporary? Is it not conceivable, as the Soviets claim, that this disease is an offshoot, albeit unintentional, of some laboratory experiments which might have been part of a war effort? We know now that scientists in advanced countries are having on-going experiments in genetic engineering with little if any ethical and moral constraints. And once the genie is out of the bottle, there is no way to put it right again.

But the message to the developed world, especially the nuclear powers among them, goes beyond these propositions. As the nuclear powers are in effect holding humanity at bay and hostage to their transient national interests, man has every right to demand and persist in demanding that nuclear weapons not be used ever in view of their probable apocalyptic consequences to man and his environment. Man is just beginning to comprehend the extent of the catastrophe that could hit planet earth if nuclear weapons were used. We know now that a nuclear winter would surely ensue from such a warfare and scientists are now unanimous on the consequences of nuclear winters in terms of life and environment in all their forms on our planet. While the extent of the damage has yet to be measured fully, man now knows that life stands to be literally eradicated from the surface of earth as a result of a nuclear winter. With the absence of sun rays and the ensuing disruption to the food cycle, the whole process of death and destruction on earth would surely be triggered off without a human way to halt the process. If there is ever a universal man-made disaster, a nuclear winter would surely be on top of the list. Famine, deforestation and genetic disorders are but some of the consequential man-made disasters which would surely follow.

When the commission adopts its final report in due course, and make its findings and resolutions known to the policymakers of the world, man may begin to sigh some relief. It would certainly be the beginning of the long road to making man the centre of attention and concern. In the final analysis it would be up to the policymakers to do something tangible in that direction. It is equally up to man wherever he exists to join the effort by making his voice heard. Policymakers do not operate in vacuum. All of us who really care must therefore awaken the voices and powerlessness among us to join hands and demand that man gain his rightful place in the process of progress. May the Declaration of International Humanitarian Principles which are due to be enunciated by the commission in the near future be forever the guiding light for all nations of the world, small and big.

Giap masterminded defeat of French, Americans in Vietnam

BANGKOK — General Vo Nguyen Giap, who returned on Thursday to Vietnam's Communist Party central committee, never had any formal military training yet he masterminded the defeat of French in Indochina in 1954.

Two decades later Giap forced the United States to pull out its vastly superior forces from Vietnam.

"The only military academy I have been to is that of the bush," he once said.

On the 30th anniversary in 1984 of his greatest military victory at Dien Bien Phu, Giap told reporters: "The future belongs to nations who struggle to be masters of their destiny."

Standing on a hill overlooking the historic valley where the death knell sounded for French rule in Asia, he said Vietnam's victory there on May 7, 1954, proved that any nation, no matter how small or poor, was fully capable of defeating any invaders regardless of its size or strength, if resolved to fight for freedom and independence.

"Any army fighting for freedom has very creative energy to achieve things which its adversary can never expect or imagine," he said.

Short and slightly built, Giap looks more like a university scholar than a military strategist and analysts said this might have contributed to French thinking that they would have little trouble crushing an army led by such a man.

Giap himself said the greatest mistake made by the French at Dien Bien Phu was in underestimating their enemy.

Born on September 1, 1912, Giap gained legendary status and his writings on guerrilla warfare are standard textbooks for leftist revolutionaries the world over.

Critics say he rose to power because he was ruthless but the years appear to have mellowed him and at the Dien Bien Phu interview in 1984 he came across as modest and unassuming. He glossed over his own military achievements and spoke instead of Vietnamese yearning for peace after almost continuous wars against the French, the Americans and the Chinese and in Kampuchea.

After the end of the war against the United States in April, 1975, Giap played a diminishing role in military and government affairs. He was replaced as defence minister in a cabinet reshuffle in January, 1980, and was dropped

from the 13-member politburo in 1982.

Diplomats in Hanoi said Giap voluntarily stepped down from the politburo when Communist Party Chairman Le Duan, the successor of the legendary Ho Chi Minh, asked who among the old guard were willing to resign to make way for new blood.

Giap and Ho Chi Minh were close friends.

The son of a peasant scholar who cultivated rice fields for an income, Giap was born in a part of central Vietnam then called Annam, just north of the 17th parallel that divided North and South Vietnam.

At 18 he was imprisoned by the French colonial rulers for Communist activities. He was freed later and won a law degree at Hanoi University.

For a time he worked as a teacher but was later assigned the task of building up the military power of the "League for the Independence of Vietnam."

Giap spent most of World II in China, preparing for the day at the end of the war when the Viet Minh seized power.

The long war in Vietnam began in December, 1946, when the Viet Minh attacked Hanoi. By this time Giap was commander of the

armed forces and remodelled his troops on the Communist pattern.

At first he employed guerrilla tactics but later switched to large-scale offensive against French rulers.

Throughout the campaign against the French and later against the Americans in South Vietnam, Giap proved to be an ambitious and dedicated Communist leader who did not include the word "surrender" in his vocabulary.

Douglas Pike, a former U.S. State Department and Defence Department official who is the author of several books on Vietnamese guerrillas, called Giap "a logistics genius" who "could move men and supplies around the battlefield for faster than anyone had a right to expect."

In recent years Giap held minor jobs such as head of Vietnam's family planning commission and vice chairman of the council of ministers in charge of science and technology.

Giap remarried when his first wife died in a French prison in 1943 and has two daughters and one son by his second wife.

He named his son Vo Dien Bien to commemorate his historic 1954 victory. — Reuters



A file photo of General Giap as defence minister (1979) with Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, who officially "retired" at the recent Vietnamese Communist Party congress

Nicaragua gets cost-free coup by releasing Hasenfus

By William Scally

WASHINGTON — By granting a pardon to American gunrunner Eugene Hasenfus, the Nicaraguan government has promoted its cause in the United States without cost to itself. U.S. officials and analysts say.

The 45-year-old cargo handler whose plane was shot down over Nicaragua while it was supplying arms to American-backed contra rebels was granted a pardon on Thursday after beginning a 30-year sentence in a prison outside Managua.

The pre-Christmas release in time for Hasenfus to attend his son Adam's seventh birthday at their home in Marinette, Wisconsin, was seen as a propaganda coup for Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Ortega called the release "a Christmas message from the Nicaraguan people to the people of the United States, a very concrete message of peace."

Said one State Department official, "It was great (newspaper) copy."

"Dad home in time for the birthday, and who does he have to thank? Daniel Ortega."

He said Hasenfus, having served his purpose in exposing a supply network to the U.S.-backed rebels, was no longer of any use to the Nicaraguan government while in prison.

Sofia Clark, spokeswoman for the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington, called the release "an expression of goodwill towards the many Americans who have worked to try to stop the policy of war against Nicaragua."

But she also acknowledged that members of Congress wanted to hear what Hasenfus knew about the rebel supply operation, now under scrutiny because of possible

illegal links to the White House-run arms dealings with Iran.

In its official reaction to the release, Washington combined its expression of gratitude with a complaint that "this entire incident was orchestrated by the Sandinistas for maximum propaganda effect."

And in a clear warning that the Reagan administration intended to continue its support for the contra rebels, the State Department said, "the fundamental totalitarian nature of the Sandinista regime has not changed, and our policy toward Nicaragua has not changed."

The timing of the Hasenfus release coincided with new questioning about the administration's support for the contra and investigations into the apparent illegal funneling of Iran arms profits to aid the rebels.

Hasenfus, the only survivor when a C-123 cargo plane was shot down while supplying the rebels on October 5, was evidently a low-level man in the contra support network run by former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employees.

But Democratic senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, a critic of the administration's Nicaragua policy whose plane flew Hasenfus out of Nicaragua following his release, said he might shed light on the rebel supply line "for those of us who are concerned that this might be more than a private affair."

Hasenfus has said that he believed he was working for a government-sponsored organisation. The CIA denied involvement.

Special committees of the House and Senate are due to open investigations into Iranian arms-for-hostages affair and its

links to contra supplies when Congress resumes work in January. Hasenfus is likely to be called as a witness.

The Iran arms scandal has

clouded the future of U.S. military aid for the contra, resumed when Congress voted \$100 million in assistance, of which \$70 million was for military supplies.

The administration calls the Sandinistas Communists and sees their government as an intolerable presence in Central America. But it has said repeatedly that it

has no intention of committing U.S. troops to the struggle in Nicaragua, leaving the contra as the only means of exerting pressure on Managua.

Walsh brings vast experience to Iran arms probe

By James Vicini

Reuters

WASHINGTON — Lawrence Walsh, a prominent lawyer named on Dec. 19 to investigate the Iran arms scandal, brings to the post impressive credentials as a former judge, top Justice Department official and Vietnam peace negotiator.

Experts said Walsh, well known in legal circles, has the background and stature needed to investigate whether any laws were broken by the secret U.S. arms sale to Iran and the diversion of profits to anti-government rebels in Nicaragua.

Selection of the 74-year-old Walsh as the Watergate-style independent counsel — formerly known as a special prosecutor — was made by a three-judge panel after President Reagan called for an impartial inquiry into the scandal that has rocked his presidency.

Walsh last held a government post in 1969, when he left his private law practice to become the deputy American negotiator at the Vietnam peace talks in Paris. "He is a man of impeccable integrity and basic good judgement. I have high regard for him," said former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who knew Walsh during the peace talks.

The tall, greying Walsh, a Republican, has been a partner in an Oklahoma City law firm since he left New York in 1981.

Walsh, a native of Port

Maitland, Nova Scotia, who became a naturalised U.S. citizen, entered government as a special assistant New York attorney general after graduating from Columbia University law school in 1935.

He then worked as an assistant to Thomas Dewey, who was prosecuting major mafia figures as a New York City district attorney. When Dewey was elected the Republican governor of New York in 1949, Walsh served as his counsel.

In 1954, Walsh was appointed U.S. district court judge in New York by President Dwight Eisenhower.

He left the bench three years later to join the Eisenhower administration as the deputy attorney general, the second highest-ranking post at the Justice Department.

He served under William Rogers, then attorney general and later secretary of state. Rogers, who headed the presidential commission that investigated the Challenger space shuttle disaster earlier this year, is reported to have recommended Walsh for the independent counsel post.

As the number two man at the Justice Department, Walsh played a key role in the government's efforts to integrate public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, the site of some of the most dramatic confrontations in the battle for civil rights for American blacks.

From 1961 to 1981, he was a partner in the Wall Street law firm

Walsh brings vast experience to Iran arms probe

of Davis, Falk and Wardell with time off for his stint at the Paris peace talks.

In 1970, Walsh headed the American Bar Association committee on the judiciary that approved President Nixon's controversial nominations of judges Clement Haynsworth and Harold Carswell to the Supreme Court.

Both nominations were rejected by the Senate after questions were raised about their qualifications.

In 1975, Walsh served as president of the influential

American Bar Association. "I don't know how many more credentials you could have," Richard Collins, an ABA spokesman, said. "He's been a prosecutor, a judge and deputy attorney general. I don't think many other people have that unique background."

The appointment was made by three U.S. court of appeals judges after attorney general Edwin Meese recommended that a lawyer be chosen with knowledge of foreign policy, national security and the organisation of the intelligence community.

LETTERS

Crossing roads

To the Editor:

ONCE one steps down to the heart of the city of Amman, one sees the contradictions in our system of driving. One sees people crossing from one side of the street to the other without following any rule, because none exists. Sometimes people drag themselves between speedy cars and most of the times they have to wait and wait at the mercy of the speedy drivers, and if one is having the guts to cross he might be dashed by such moving cars.

Something should be done in order to prevent such hazardous situations such as traffic jams and accidents. There are so many ways in which we can ease these problems and even eradicate them. Traffic lights should be introduced at downtown Amman, or at least Zebra crossing markings be established and patrolled by traffic wardens. Underground tunnels for pedestrians could also be built to ease traffic on the streets.

I do urge the authorities to do something to solve such crucial problems.

Abdullah Waleed Al-Masri
Switzerland

Beirut publisher of Iran scoop tells of pre-publication fears

By Nora Bonstary

BEIRUT — Hassan Sabra, the Beirut publisher who published the story that touched off the furor over U.S. arms sales to Iran, despite protests from his wife and colleagues, and a kidnapping threat from Islamic fundamentalists, says he now considers it not only his best scoop but the greatest achievement of his life.

"I knew it would be an important story, but I never imagined it would assume such dimensions," Mr. Sabra, 38, a Shiite Muslim from a southern Lebanese village, said in an interview on Dec. 9. "Everybody close to me was against me — my wife, the editorial board at Ash Shira'a — but this news had to get out."

Mr. Sabra said he was also flattered to attract the attention of President Ronald Reagan — even if in a derogatory way — to the magazine he edits and partly owns, Mr. Reagan, in an interview with Time magazine last month, called Ash Shira'a, the magazine that he edits, "that rag in Beirut."

"I don't want to be innuendoed, but I really appreciate Mr.

Reagan's drawing attention to my magazine, though we have vexed him," Mr. Sabra said.

"Is it not an extraordinary phenomenon that a publication in our country, only known abroad now for violence and destruction, had to point such an important truth to what should be the greatest democracy of the world?" Mr. Sabra said the idea — expressed by Reagan administration officials and others that his publication of the release of American hostages had not crossed his mind at the time, largely because he was so engrossed in what he saw as a power struggle in Iran.

"All I could think of was that there was a radical wing in Iran seeking help. They turned to the Lebanese press as the last weapon to defend their point of view. Also, professionally, it was very, very tempting," he said.

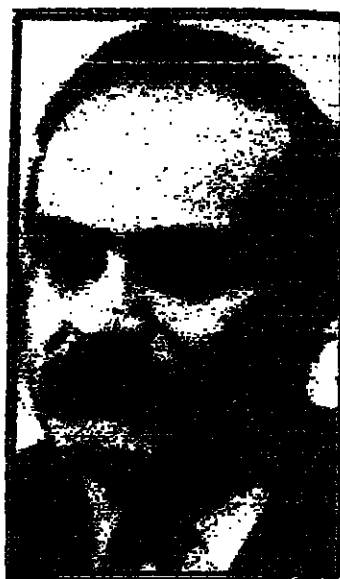
On Oct. 27, two Iranians came to the offices of Ash Shira'a in the largely Muslim, Museibeh quarter just west of the "green line," which divides Beirut into Christian and Muslim sectors.

The Iranians, who told him

about the visit of the former national security adviser, Robert C. McFarlane, to Iran, said they had come to him because "you are a personal friend of Sheikh Montazeri." Mr. Sabra said he trusted the sources, with whom he had spent time in Tehran and at Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri's home in Qom after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's victory over the shah. Ayatollah Montazeri is Ayatollah Khomeini's designated successor.

One week before printing the arms delivery story, Mr. Sabra received a threat that Iranian-backed guerrillas of Hezbollah, the Party of God, were planning to kidnap him for an article he had written criticising Iran for its conduct in the Gulf war.

"My wife was petrified. She pleaded with me to forget the whole thing," Mr. Sabra said. "My editors argued with me until the last minute. That is why the subject of American arms was never mentioned on the cover itself and only appeared in a subtle written in question form on the inside. I told everyone we would discuss the problems that



Hassan Sabra

may arise after the issue was out."

The magazine was printed and distributed on Saturday, Nov. 1, but did not catch the attention of other journalists until Monday, a day after the release of Shiite captors of an American hostage.

David P. Jacobsen.

Mr. Sabra said he had trusted his sources because they had offered to take him to Tehran to talk to Revolutionary Guards who were in Tehran during Mr. McFarlane's visit.

"I know the background picture to all this. There had been a whiff of dealings with the Americans before my friends came to me," he said.

"The Revolutionary Guards had reported the presence of an American in Tehran and asked their superiors about it," Mr. Sabra said. "They were told Khomeini already knew about it and they should forget it."

But then there was a wave of arrests of supporters of Mehdi Hashemi, Ayatollah Montazeri's son-in-law and head of the office of liberation movements. Mr. Hashemi was arrested on charges of possessing false documents used to promote activities of Iran-linked liberation movements and of jeopardizing relations with Syria and Saudi Arabia.

"Before the news broke in Beirut, there was a flurry of pamphlets in Tehran warning against resuming ties with the

Americans and attacking the United States," Mr. Sabra added.

"Politicians there were aware of what was going on and sentiment was building up against the arrests."

He said the scoop had boosted Ash Shira'a's sales and that now, none of the 25,000 copies printed weekly were being returned.

Although he is an admirer of Iran's revolution, Mr. Sabra said, he has often criticised its policy in Lebanon, such as attacks against the United Nations peace-keepers in Lebanon and its conduct in the Gulf war.

"In writing about McFarlane's trip to Tehran, I had to be extremely careful, but it was an opportunity I could not miss," he said.

"Death has become so cheap in Lebanon — but I was not afraid. People in this country are dying from stray bullets that come through their windows or from shrapnel that pierces their armoured cars. The danger is there anyway," he said.

He cited a verse from the holy Koran: "And death shall come to you even if fortified towers" — Washington Post.

Study says U.S. trails Japan, West Germany and Sweden in duality of life

By Tom Raum
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States lags behind Japan, West Germany and Sweden in both economic performance and quality of life, according to a study released Dec. 18 by an economic research organization.

The four-nation comparative study by the Economic Policy Institute said that, on the basis of 17 measures of quality of life, the U.S. performance was worst and Sweden's best.

The United States had the best performance in only three quality-of-life measures: home ownership, living space per person and expenditure on medical care per person, the study found.

It had the worst performance of the four in 14 categories, including infant mortality, male life expectancy, homicide rate and

unemployment.

Of 17 economic indicators, the United States again scored last overall among the four countries while Japan was first, said the study, which compared data from 1960-1985.

In the economic area, the United States scored first in just two areas: employment growth and investment growth rate. It had the worst performance in 11 categories, including growth of the gross national product, trade balance, net savings, and profit rate in manufacturing.

The institute is a private, non-profit research organization with financial support from labour unions and various foundations. Institute president Jeff Faux said the study compared the United States with Japan and West Germany because they are its chief economic rivals — and with Sweden because it has the largest

civilian government work force, by percentage, of any major industrialized country.

The study sought to examine the link between government spending and economic well-being.

"Taken as a whole, this examination of the major comparative statistics available for these countries is impressive evidence that the size of a nation's civilian government is not, in and of itself, a burden on economic growth and efficiency," Faux said.

Average unemployment in the United States from 1960-1985 was the highest of the four nations: 5.9 per cent of the total labour force, compared with 2.7 per cent in West Germany, 2.1 per cent in Sweden and 1.7 per cent in Japan. However, in 1985, Germany had the highest rate: 8.3 per cent, compared with 7.2 per cent in the United States, 2.8 per

cent in Sweden and 2.6 per cent in Japan.

The United States also scored worst among the four in the "misery index," calculated by adding inflation to unemployment. In 1985, this index was 10.8 for the United States, 10.5 for Germany, 10.2 for Sweden and 4.6 for Japan.

And it had by far the highest homicide rate: 8.8 per 100,000 population, compared with 4.5 in Sweden, 4.1 in Germany and 1.6 in Japan.

However, the study said the United States "appears to be the best-housed nation, despite the existence of substantial homelessness and urban and rural poverty."

In the United States, 65 per cent of the adult population owns its own residence, compared with 60 per cent in Japan, 51 per cent in Sweden and 36 per cent in

Germany, the study said.

And the average number of persons-per-room in U.S. homes is lower than in the other four nations: one person for every two rooms (0.5), compared with 0.8 per room in Japan, 0.6 per room in Germany and 0.7 per room in Sweden.

Females live longer than males in all four countries, but males have the longest life expectancy at birth in Japan, 73.6 years — compared with 72.8 years in Sweden, 69.9 in Germany and 69.5 in the United States.

Females can expect to live longest in either Sweden or Japan: 79.1 years, compared to 77.5 in the United States and 76.8 in Germany.

Infant mortality was highest in the United States and lowest in Japan: 11.2 deaths per 1,000 births in the United States in 1983, compared with 10.3 in West

Germany, 7.0 in Sweden and 6.2 per cent in Japan.

U.S. workers put in an average of 34 hours a week, said the study; more than the 36 hours put in by Swedish workers and just below the 40-hour work week in Germany. In Japan, the average work week is 47 hours.

Female workers make the highest salaries in Sweden relative to their male coworkers: their earnings are 81 per cent of average male earnings. That compares with 75 per cent in Germany, 68 per cent in the United States and 53 per cent in Japan.

Economic growth in the United States in 1985 was the lowest of the four countries: 2.2 per cent, according to the tabulation used in the survey, against 4.6 per cent in Japan, 2.4 per cent in Germany and 2.3 per cent in Sweden.

Communist or not, East Europe draws exiles home

By Barry Newman
The Wall Street Journal

BUDAPEST — What price freedom in America for the old communist? Sometimes the answer is "too much for Anna and Zoltan." Chiklos, they had the choice between freedom on a low income amid high crime or retirement in totalitarian luxury. They picked Budapest over Bridgeport.

In Connecticut, Mr. and Mrs. Chiklos lived above their tailor shop. In Hungary, the country where both were born, they have a spacious apartment with high ceilings and a view of the Danube. They cost \$10,000. Whenever they please, they can walk across Szabadsag Bridge to the thermal baths at the Hotel Gellert.

"When we came back I thought, 'What happened over here?'" Mrs. Chiklos says in her living room, crooning her good ear in a visitor's direction. Budapest was far wealthier than she remembered. "We are here forever," she says now. "We cannot stay in America. Sorry."

century. Hungarians have emigrated to the United States. After World War II, many forsook communism, and many more forsook it in 1956. To the Hungarian state, though, they have always been citizens. They can always return.

Of several hundred thousand Hungarians who have gone to America, about 500 have come back. As those who left after the revolution become retirees, the flow is picking up. U.S. embassies around the East bloc record similar trickles: 1,200 Czechoslovaks, 2,500 Poles.

It isn't as if the elderly have it made in these countries; in Hungary, two million old people who never left live near the poverty line. But those who return to Eastern Europe from America can still pick up their Social Security checks, and that makes them rich. "Coming back is an advancement," says a man who never went. "They have two pleasures — when they eat and when they pay."

Their status doesn't come without cost. Once here, they need an exit visa to get out, and they are entitled to only one a year. Many went to America because that was where the money was, and Hungary makes them bring along every dollar they saved. For these people, apolitical and unattached, Hungary is a refuge. But the money still comes from America.

line for the usual 10-minute wait at the elevator. At age 76, he is still a rugged sailor in a yachtsman's cap and turtle-neck. "I just finished a 43-footer," he says, then whispers: "They're building mostly private. Some people do quite well here."

Before the war, Mr. Davidhazy skipped merchant ships for Royal Danube Sea Navigation Co. During the war, Germany commandeered his ship for duty in the Black Sea. After the war, he escaped to Argentina. His flight to the U.S. in 1957 had less to do with politics than with a slump in the Argentine boat business.

In America, Mr. Davidhazy voted Republican. He backed Messrs. Nixon, Ford, Reagan. In Hungary, he votes, too. In the last election, he backed János Kadar, the Communist Party leader.

"Freedom is a funny thing," he says, taking a walk in the Buda Hills. "What does it mean? I tell you. If you go for a stroll, as I did, in Seattle and you meet a policeman, you are sure that guy is there to defend you."

Is that what he misses about America? Mr. Davidhazy stops to think. "I miss Ivar's Fish Food," he says. "In Seattle, that was the best restaurant."

they called me in. A young man said, 'Sometimes we have to open your letters.' All right. They have to. He was very honest about it."

Mr. Karoly pours himself another brandy, and then runs through his five-of-diamonds routine. He has no more political thoughts.

But Arpad Hegedus has many. Among Hungary's home-comers from America, Mr. Hegedus is the exception.

A frail man of 77 with a shock of white hair, he stands on the balcony of his high-rise apartment watching a jet take off in the haze. "It reminds me of Kennedy Airport," he says.

Mr. Hegedus is a composer and a music historian. In the 1950s, he was a music director for Hungarian radio. But he crossed the authorities, and they reduced him to a note copyist. In 1958, one of his organ works was played at Riverside Church in New York. Four years later, he managed to emigrate. He taught at the University of Cincinnati until 1972, when his wife's mother became ill. His wife came home to Budapest. He followed.

"I am not a back-home Hungarian," he says, walking slowly from the balcony into his narrow study. "I am only an American."

Between sunlit wall charts of music's evolution hangs a picture of Ronald Reagan. An American flag stands on the desk and, behind it, a calendar signed by

Strom Thurmond. A book of Norman Rockwell paintings lies on a shelf below the Russian portable television.

Back in Cincinnati

From beneath a pile of sheet music, Mr. Hegedus pulls a plastic binder labeled "Autobiography" and turns to the table of contents. The final chapter is entitled "In Exile."

"It is serious," he says. "Self-exile."

He hasn't reclaimed Hungarian citizenship; his U.S. passport, never used, is good until 1995. Each year, he gets a ballot from Hamilton County, Ohio, and casts his vote for governor, or senator, or the county tax. In 1981, Mr. Hegedus finished a five-symphony tribute to the United States — and his congressman, Thomas Luken, read "a tribute to Arpad Hegedus" into the Congressional Record.

"I have no contacts here," he says. "Voice of America, that is my contact. I know, from America, everything."

Mr. Hegedus puts his autobiography back under the pile of music and sits in his corner chair.

"I ask you," he says, "what is individual freedom? I have my freedom here in this room. Every day, I am in America, strolling on the streets of Cincinnati."

previous eight years. It has welcomed 250,000 visitors since the opening.

The village boasts a log cabin that serves as a combined post office and residence for Santa, as well as shops selling Finnish and Lapp handicrafts.

Santa received letters from 91 countries last year, with Australia and Japan topping the list after Finland.

"Every child gets an answer, we send them a printed letter with Santa's greetings and a surprise game," she said.

"Dear Mr. Santa Claus, I'd like to become a computer programmer in the future. In your case, is Santa the main job or do you have another one? My hobby is listening to music and going to a movie. If I can see you, could you go to a movie with me," wrote 13-year-old Asami from Japan.

"We got one letter from a little boy which just said: 'Dear Santa Claus, I have already enough socks.' It was one of the shortest letters we ever got," Manner said.

Santa Claus enters the computer age

By Peter Verschoor
Reuters

ROVANIEMI, Finland — Santa Claus, the man with the long white beard who lives in the Arctic circle, is getting a Christmas present himself this year — a computer to answer his fan mail.

Next year Santa will use the computer, a gift from a large computer company, to answer the hundreds of thousands of letters children from all over the world send him each year.

Answering mail from children is one of the most important activities in Santa Claus village at Rovaniemi, in Finnish Lapland, exactly on the Arctic circle.

The Santa Claus project, supported by the Finnish tourist board and Lapland's development fund, was launched in December 1984 by the government of Lapland who declared his whole province the "official residence of Santa Claus."

The village in Rovaniemi was opened in June 1985 at a location where a Santa post office had been answering letters from children from all over the world for the

not suspected of intent to commit a crime during his illegal wanderings.

"It seems he made two early morning visits to his girlfriend," she said. "I think it was for social reasons."

Seven other Nassau convicts wear the "electronic ball and chain," as it has been called. The system is seen as a way to save taxpayers money and reduce jail overcrowding. It is expected to cost about \$187,000 in its first year.

Officials said that Mr. Ryan was

A computer nets convict

By Clifford D. May
New York Times

MINEOLA, New York — A New York man has been jailed after being caught by a computer that contends he paid two unauthorized visits to his girlfriend.

The prisoner, Barry W. Ryan, was convicted in October of attempted petty larceny and was one of the first criminals sentenced to serve time at home under a new electronic detention

system in Nassau County.

Mr. Ryan, 25, is the first in the country to be accused of violating the system, which is also used in several other U.S. communities.

The system calls for a convict to wear a transmitter strapped to his ankle 24 hours a day. An electronic connection through the home telephone allows a computer at the probation department to register the convict's comings and goings, which are restricted.

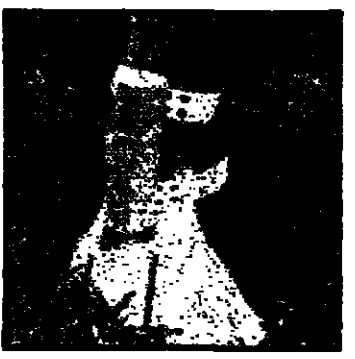
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A radio transmitter strapped to a convict's ankle is called an electronic "ball and chain"

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Netherlands overcomes wet pitch to defeat Cyprus

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (R) — The Netherlands overcame the problems posed by a slippery, wet pitch and enthusiastic opponents to beat Cyprus 2-0 in an entertaining European Soccer Championship qualifying match Sunday.

Goals in each half from Ruud Gullit and John Bosman ensured The Netherlands of a comfortable victory and lifted them a point clear of Greece at the top of Group Five.

Overnight rain had left the Tsiron Stadium in a saturated condition, but it did little to halt the fluency of a well-balanced Dutch team. Only a series of heroic saves by Andreas Charitou denied them a more convincing triumph.

The first goal came in the 19th minute. Adrie Van Tiggelen took a free kick on the right and Gullit crashed in a powerful header.

Cyprus missed a chance to equalise just three minutes later when Sonny Silooy cleared a John Ioannou header off the line.

The Dutch team, including recalled veteran Arnold Muhren,

continued to dominate from midfield in the second half when Cyprus forced only two openings. John Yiangoudakis firing wide with a free kick and Evagoras Christofi miskicking wildly from only two metres out.

The Netherlands needed no further warnings and completed the scoring in the 79th minute when Gullit moved down the right and crossed for Bosman to head effortlessly wide of Charitou.

GROUP FIVE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Netherlands	3	2	1	0	3	0	5
Greece	3	2	0	1	7	5	4
Poland	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Hungary	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Cyprus	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

Violence casts shadow over Italy's 1990 World Cup tournament plans

ROME (AP) — On a recent Sunday, 2,000 police were dispatched to Rome's Olympic Stadium. Their assignment: conduct body searches of spectators entering the 66,500-capacity arena for the Italian League match between defending champion Juventus and Roma.

Even with such extraordinary security measures, one fan sneaked into the stadium with an axe, which was thrown against a net used to protect players entering the field.

Officials still judged the November day a success, since no one was injured or arrested at the game, an increasingly rare occurrence in Italian soccer.

Despite innovative security measures and greater numbers of police at stadiums, authorities still are looking for ways to halt violence among the huge crowds who attend the matches in Italy.

They have to come up with an answer before Italy hosts the 1990 World Cup tournament in a dozen stadiums around the country.

Since the Italian season began, one youth has been killed, two badly stabbed and more than 100 people arrested in match-related violence.

In clashes with troublemakers, who throw stones and sharpened coins and carry knives and clubs, police have used tear gas on almost every Sunday this season.

Crowd violence also has spilled out of the stadiums. Youths often attack tour buses carrying rival supporters, wait at junctions to stone private cars of visiting fans for right pitched battles at railroad stations.

In early December in Ascoli, a youth was stabbed to death outside a discotheque in a brawl between rival fans of Second Division clubs Ascoli and Sambenedettese.

"All you need is a bus with 50 crazy kids and you have chaos. These delinquents — I don't call them supporters — are looking for an outlet and when they don't find it elsewhere they look for it at soccer matches," says Umberto Esposito, a Roma official.

Roma has taken several new measures to counter troublemakers. Representatives of the team's numerous fan clubs hold meetings with officials before all home games to try to pinpoint possible trouble.

Alcohol long has been banned at Rome's Olympic Stadium and the prohibition has now been

extended to soft drink cans and plastic bottles. Police presence has been increased, with the force deployed for the Juventus game the largest ever.

For away games, Roma insists that fans produce an identity card in order to buy tickets to prevent troublemakers, who call themselves "ultras," from sparking trouble.

That policy, however, failed to work in Roma's Nov. 23 league match with Fiorentina in Florence.

At that game, a 19-year-old Roma supporter was stabbed in the back by fans of his own club. Later, police fired teargas at thugs who wrecked buses and destroyed cafes outside Florence's Stadium. "Sometimes restricting tickets makes little difference because these delinquents climb over the stadium walls. They don't even pay for the train to the game, never mind the tickets," Esposito said.

Florence's Stadium is one of 12 which will be used for the 1990 World Cup.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Manchester draws, Sheffield wins

LONDON (AP) — Two goals by Steve Redmond earned struggling Manchester City a precious point in a 2-2 draw at Coventry Sunday, while Sheffield Wednesday moved into fifth place with a 2-0 win over Newcastle in the only other First Division game. Coventry twice took the lead to the delight of the 12,430 fans, first through reserve striker Paul Culpin after just two minutes and again through Micky Adams after 39. But each time City hit back, Redmond scoring after five and 62 minutes, and in the end the visitors might easily have snatched victory.

India's Gavaskar hits century

KANPUR, India (R) — India's prolific opener Sunil Gavaskar amassed his 34th test cricket century Sunday, an unbeaten 148 against Sri Lanka which left the rain-affected first test set for a draw. India was 321 for three at the close of the fourth day in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings of 420. The opening match of the three-test series ends Monday.

Leeds fans blamed for chairman's death

SCARBOROUGH, England (AP) — The notoriously hostile fans of Leeds United were partially blamed Sunday for the death of a soccer club chairman who went to help police quell a riot in the stands of his semi-professional team. Barry Adamson, chairman of Scarborough, a part-time team from outside England's 92-club professional league, was butted on the head by a fan Saturday as he tried to break up a fight during a cup match between his team and Morecambe. Adamson, 47, was giving a statement to detectives 15 minutes later when he collapsed. He died on the way to the hospital, apparently from a heart attack.

Kasparov leads in Brussels chess

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov took a commanding lead in the Odra Chess Tournament Saturday when he beat West German Robert Huebner while his closest challenger, Briton Nigel Short, lost. Kasparov only has to draw one of his two remaining games to win the \$5,000 first prize in the invitational tournament. Short, Swiss veteran Victor Korchnoi and Briton John Nunn are back in second place, two points behind the leader. The tournament resumes Monday and ends on Tuesday. The 23-year-old Kasparov, playing white, needed 32 moves to beat Huebner while Short, one of chess' brightest hopes at 21, was upset by compatriot Nunn in 39 moves despite playing white. Korchnoi, 55, also won with black, outlasting Hungarian Lajos Portisch in 46 moves.

Snowstorm prevents search on Mt. Eiger

GRINDELWALD, Switzerland (AP) — Snowfall and fierce gales prevented a search for two South Korean Alpinists assumed to be blocked on the north face of 3,970-metre Mt. Eiger. Police spokesman Kurt Schwendener said Saturday there seemed little prospect of launching the search in the next 24 hours because forecasts called for continued bad weather. The two men, identified by the Korean embassy as Wong Kyum Kim, 32, and Chong Sun Bai, 37, were last spotted five days ago 300 metres below the summit.

England beats Tasmania in cricket test

HOBART, Tasmania (R) — England completed a comfortable victory of an innings and 96 runs against Tasmania on the final day of their four-day cricket match in Hobart Sunday.

Tasmania, bundled out for 79 in its first innings, was all out for 167 in its second innings midway through the second session on the final day.

Chief wicket takers for England in the Tasmanian second innings was Gladstone Small with three for 44 and Mike Gatting taking three for 40.

There was no play on the first day due to a rain affected wicket and a further one hour and sixteen minutes was lost over the whole match.

England bundled Tasmania out for 79 in the first innings with the seam bowlers taking all the wickets, including Phillip DeFreitas and Neil Foster each with four.

Will Slack hit 89 and England tallied 342 for nine declared in its first innings, a lead of 263 runs.

Top scorer for Tasmania in the second innings was Danny Buckingham who was unbeaten on 43.

Statistics are investigating whether the unusual all-boundary innings by John Emburey of ten fours and a six for 46 runs from 30 balls in 33 minutes was the best first class effort of its kind.

Whitaker scores unanimous decision

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) — Lightweight Pernell "Sweetpea" Whitaker scored a unanimous decision over former WBA junior lightweight champion Alfredo Layne of Panama in a 10-round bout Saturday.

Whitaker, fighting before a partisan hometown crowd, remained undefeated by winning all but the eighth round.

Whitaker, who won a gold medal in the 1984 Olympics, worked Layne against the ropes in nearly every round and managed to dance away from his opponent's advances all except once.

The fight's only knockdown came late in the fifth round. When Layne sent Whitaker to the canvas in a corner of the ring, Whitaker got up quickly and the bell ended the round.

In the sixth round, Whitaker came out swinging his right hand to Layne's head and quickly had the Panamanian fighter against the ropes. Layne shielded his face against the blows as Whitaker continued his assault with a series of hard rights to resume control of the fight.

Whitaker, 22, improved his record to 11-0 with six knockouts. Layne, 27, is 15-6 with 11 knockouts.

FIFA proposes ban on terraces to curb violence

LONDON (R) — Nineteen months after the tragedy at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels, the International Football Federation (FIFA) has put forward a proposal to close down the terraces of soccer stadiums hosting 1994 World Cup qualifying matches.

Most supporters would accept it as a logical, if radical, step after years of incidents of crowd violence all over Europe.

Logical because most crowd trouble emanates from the packed terraces, radical because it goes in the face of traditions which have always seen soccer as the sport of working men who gather together in vast numbers to stand and support their team.

Whether the majority of such fans are now sympathetic to the wider issues at stake and prepared to change habits of a lifetime remains to be seen.

But FIFA deserve their encouragement in attempting to eradicate the most serious of several problems eroding professional soccer's standing as a spectator sport.

Their proposal, however, may have a more diminishing effect on the finances of the national soccer associations concerned — particularly in southern Europe, South America and Africa — than on the excesses of the hooligans.

FIFA is seeking to drive out of the sport, in the short term, at least.

Indeed, judging from the reactions of the national soccer-playing nations, support for such moves will be lukewarm at best.

Nations whose soccer associations play their international matches in stadiums with a high proportion of seats will clearly escape lightly compared to those whose supporters stand out on the terracing.

England, whose clubs have been banned indefinitely from European competition and whose fans have left a trail of destruction all over Europe on their travels, play all its home matches at London's Wembley Stadium where the capacity is 92,000 including 44,000 seats.

English Football Association (F.A.) spokesman David Barber said he could not see a terraces ban affecting the problems

England had experienced in the past.

"They cause trouble as much outside as inside the grounds, and in the towns as well," he said. "It seems to be a problem that is impossible for the soccer authorities to stop. You wonder sometimes if these people want to see the match at all."

English clubs have been banned from Europe following the involvement of Liverpool fans in the riot before the 1985 European Cup final when 39 fans lost their lives and the F.A. is acutely aware of the need to find a solution to the so-called "English disease."

Barber said: "It is getting better in this country. We have had only six reports of incidents at grounds this season and that is after more than 1,000 professional league and cup matches have been played."

In Spain, where crowd disorder is a relatively new phenomenon, Gerardo Gonzalez, head of the Spanish Federation's press office, said FIFA's proposal was "aimed in the right direction, but bound to have a financial effect."

"The Santiago Bernabeu Stadium has 30,000 seats and if we made it seats only we would lose about half the capacity. So we would have to increase ticket prices."

Increased prices would obviously deter the lower-paid supporters, who have traditionally occupied the high terracing of the Madrid Stadium, from attending.

A similar scenario in Italy, West Germany, Portugal and Greece might have similar effects, though it is difficult to imagine Italy's most dedicated — and often wealthy — young followers being deterred by a price rise.

But the effects would be less severely felt in northern Europe where soccer is more usually played in severe weather requiring covered stadiums with a higher proportion of seating.

The cost of converting many of Europe's more ancient stadiums, however, to accommodate seated spectators could be huge — though it would be dwarfed in comparison with the work involved in a similar conversion for the stadiums in Africa where huge crowds stand in the open to watch international matches.

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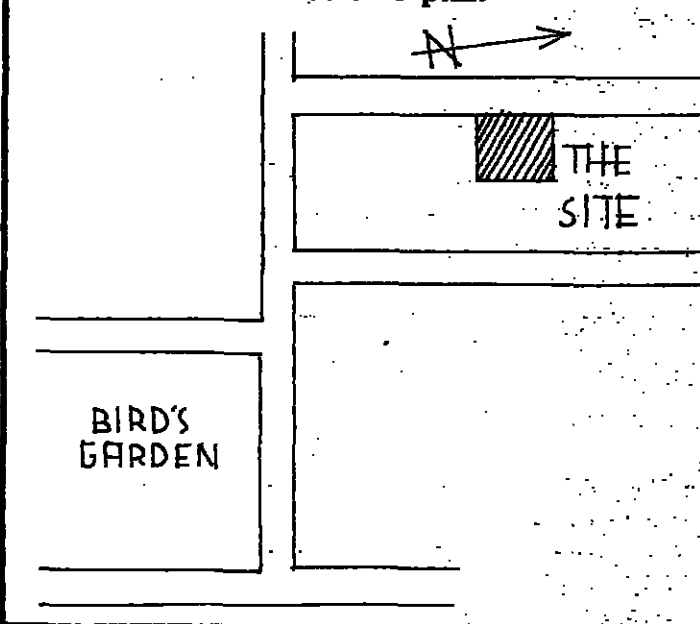
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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Hachon

Following reports summarizing activities in Amman of European and Arab as well as gold prices, here is a foreign exchange at Halim Salaf and Sons

UN — Last week, the U.S. dollar was trapped within a very trading range. It traded at 0.348 fil to 0.352 fil on the Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in the market, dealers the dollar for the third higher than the CBJ rates, because of the high 1 for the dollar locally from commercial sector before the year.

Dollar traded between 0.363 fil to 0.365 fil. The dollar expected to trade higher on national markets because of economic figures expected released this week in the ad due to the OPEC cut to limit output and fees.

Trading in European currencies

sterling traded steady the week, but Friday higher on the OPEC cut. ng traded between the 14965-5085 fil. DM, SF, aded also moved slightly because of the steadiness in ilar. The DM traded 1.0170 fil to 1.0175 fil, the SF 0.2025 fil to 0.2030 fil, and the yen between 0.00213 fil to 0.00215 fil. Expected metals traded

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DEC. 22, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get conditions in order this morning. Delays and obstacles as well as poor judgment will cloud your activities later. Keep optimistic and cheerful and help others.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your work day starts out well, but later you may meet with annoyances. Take it a stride.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Show your mate that you are devoted to him/her this morning. Not a good day to get into expensive recreations.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Rid yourself of trouble-making affairs at home. If you have guests in, show consideration for them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Handle your correspondence wisely and answer letters that are most important first.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Not a good day to make any pairs needed on your property. Study brochures in the evening for good ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have an excellent lead in the morning that can gain you some cherished m. Don't rely on a friend yet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may find it difficult to accomplish anything, but it is only because you are skin on too much at once.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be more self-dependent. There may not be as helpful as you wish. Enjoy a simple hobby today.

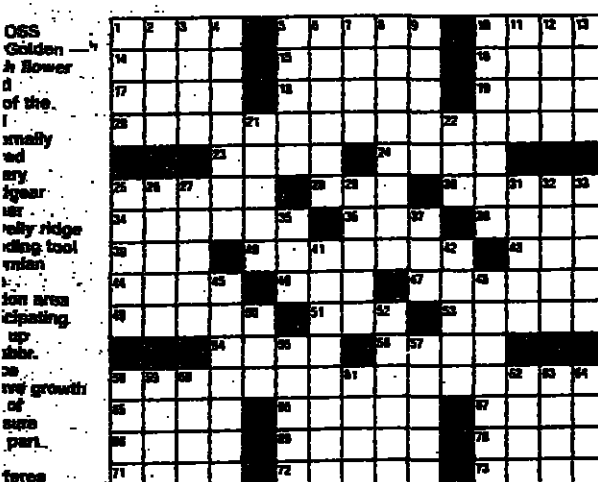
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be most wise handling all career and public matters today. Be safe, be sorry.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Carry through with course of action already put in operation, even though you want to make changes now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Do not argue over bill or a statement. Don't pick a fight with your mate or something small.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't have that long conversation with an associate that could lead to trouble w. Try to please an ally.

IE Daily Crossword by Nancy McCarthy



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across	6 Across	11 Across	16 Across
2 Across	7 Across	12 Across	17 Across
3 Across	8 Across	13 Across	18 Across
4 Across	9 Across	14 Across	19 Across
5 Across	10 Across	15 Across	20 Across
6 Across	11 Across	16 Across	21 Across
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17 Across	22 Across	27 Across	32 Across
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51 Across	56 Across	61 Across	66 Across
52 Across	57 Across	62 Across	67 Across
53 Across	58 Across	63 Across	68 Across
54 Across	59 Across	64 Across	69 Across
55 Across	60 Across	65 Across	70 Across
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59 Across	64 Across	69 Across	74 Across
60 Across	65 Across	70 Across	75 Across
61 Across	66 Across	71 Across	76 Across
62 Across	67 Across	72 Across	77 Across
63 Across	68 Across	73 Across	78 Across
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U.S. corporate giants plan to trim workforce

NEW YORK (AP) — Two giants of American high technology, ATT and IBM, have announced plans to trim down in the face of slack business, reducing their workforces by a total of more than 37,000 employees.

American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (ATT) said it would cut up to 27,400 jobs through layoffs, attrition and other unspecified means.

International Business Machines (IBM) announced that more than 10,000 U.S. employees had accepted early retirement incentives, and said its organizations in Canada, France, the United Kingdom and The Netherlands would offer similar incentives.

Gillette Co., meanwhile, fresh from fighting off a hostile takeover, said it would cut about 2,400 jobs.

The eight per cent reduction in Gillette's work force will come through layoffs, attrition and retirements, the company said. It said it also will sell several divisions as part of a restructuring prompted by last month's takeover battle with Revlon Group Inc.'s chairman, Mr. Ronald O. Perleman.

The announcements came a week before Christmas, a time when many companies are taking steps to clean up their balance sheets before the end of the year.

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) which represents 155,000 ATT employees, criticized the timing of the announcement.

"I think it's in very poor taste on the company's part," said Mr. John Bryan, president of CWA local 3106 in Jacksonville, Florida.

ATT's job cuts cover nine per cent of the company's management and eight per cent of non-management workers. IBM's cuts will eliminate about four per cent of its U.S. employees.

"Reducing force by some 27,000 employees — the majority of them good and skilled employees — is painful all around," said ATT Chairman James Olson. But he added, "neither employees, nor customers, nor shareholders benefit when companies defer such action, and simply limp along into the future."

ATT's Bell Laboratories will be spared from layoffs because of its critical role in keeping ATT current in high technology. Mr. Olson told a news conference.

European airlines forecast six per cent traffic growth in 1987

BRUSSELS (AP) — European airlines last week forecast world passenger traffic will grow by six per cent in 1987 from this year despite expectations of little or no expansion in traffic in 1986.

The 21 carriers, grouped in the Association of European Airlines (AEA), based the forecast on the expected growth in traffic on the North Atlantic, mainly coming from a higher number of people travelling from Europe to North America.

European airlines' passenger traffic on that route fell steeply this year, AEA said, Americans being deterred by the dollar fall, terrorism and the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor.

However, AEA said it believed the decline of the dollar was a major factor in the traffic drop. Between 1981 and 1985, when the dollar appreciated almost 50 per cent against European currencies, American traffic to Europe doubled, AEA said.

"With the reverse now happening, it is not surprising that American vacation travel has been hit," said AEA's manager for research and forecasting, Mr. Jan Brunlid.

AEA said many of the lost passengers this year were low fare-paying travellers and it forecast some should return next year.

Between January and October, European airlines' world passenger traffic dipped 0.4 per cent compared with the corresponding year-earlier period due to a steep 12 per cent fall in traffic to the Middle East and North Africa, AEA said.

Poles face high price hikes

WARSAW (AP) — A senior official told the Communist Party's central committee that the government would risk public discontent in implementing steep price hikes over the next three years, according to the official Polish News Agency.

Deputy Premier Zbigniew Szalajda said that the government's economic plan for 1987 envisaged price hikes averaging 14 per cent for food and consumer goods.

Party spokesman Mr. Jerzy Majka, at a news conference, quoted Polish leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski as saying that the government had halted a deterioration in living standards, but that the economic situation is "not satisfactory enough to make us sleep well."

Mr. Szalajda said that in order to keep government subsidies

from rising next year, the retail prices for basic raw materials, fuels and energy used by factories would be raised 26 per cent.

Mr. Szalajda said the government favoured speeding up efforts in 1988-89 to balance the economy even at the "risk of the temporary worsening of moods."

Wages would go up in step with the price rises in order to prevent a drop in workers' purchasing power, he said.

"The faster balancing of the economy... will finally improve the standard of living and citizens' feelings," Mr. Szalajda said.

Price hikes caused widespread workers' protests in 1970 and 1976, and in 1980 sparked the strikes that led to the birth of the now-outlawed Solidarity Labour Federation.

GCC to set up trade arbitration body

ABU DHABI (R) — Trade ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) agreed Sunday on the establishment of a body to settle commercial trading disputes among citizens of member states.

A press release issued after a two-day meeting said the ministers urged people in the six members — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — to refer disputes to the arbitration organisation and abide by its decisions.

The ministers asked chambers of commerce and industry in GCC states to work out the legal regulations for the body, which was originally proposed by the GCC general secretariat.

They also approved executive measures allowing GCC citizens to engage in retail trade in any GCC state from next March and in wholesale trade from March 1990.

The ministers discussed ways to ease the exchange of local industrial products among member states and ordered customs directors to lift any obstacles to the transfer of locally-produced goods among

GCC states. They entrusted special committees to work out regulations for a unified system to register trade marks in GCC states and to discuss the introduction of unified insurance laws.

UAE relaxes immigration rules to keep expatriates

Meanwhile, the UAE, worried by a shrinking economy, is relaxing immigration controls in an apparent bid to avert a mass exodus of foreigners.

Three-quarters of the UAE's 1.6 million people are expatriates and authorities see them as vital to the economy of the federation of seven emirates as lower oil revenues bring recession to the Gulf region.

Thousands of immigrant workers who arrived in the Gulf during the 1970s oil boom have already left on the receding tide of

economic activity. At the same time, political, security and cultural considerations have prompted some Gulf states to tighten residence visa requirements to limit the foreign population.

But the UAE seems to be doing the opposite. In the latest move, it abolished an income restriction on immigrant workers who want to bring their families to join them.

Workers earning less than 3,000 dirhams (\$817 a month) can now bring their wives and children on "compassionate grounds" if they have lived in the UAE for a reasonable time, a government official told the Khaleej Times.

Previously, workers at the lower end of the pay scale lived as bachelors, enduring psychological strains which sometimes affected work performance, officials said.

The government has also allowed visas for relatives outside the workers' immediate families to join them in cases where the families need help managing the household.

Diplomats say the new measures could increase the

number of foreigners, mainly from South Asia.

According to unofficial estimates, the UAE has 400,000 Indians, 225,000 Pakistanis, 25,000 Sri Lankans and 75,000 Bangladeshis, concentrated in the building and services industries.

Three are also believed to be 280,000 expatriate Arabs, 100,000 Iranians, 55,000 Filipinos and 45,000 Europeans.

Immigrant workers send much of their salaries home, but they have to spend on accommodation and food and they also buy electronic and household goods — to the benefit of local businessmen and landlords.

UAE officials say the expatriate demand for consumer goods and services is crucial to the economy, which declined by six per cent last year and is likely to contract further this year.

However, some UAE citizens say they would prefer a shrunken economy to more expatriates. Already a minority in their own country, they fear a large foreign community with its language and religious differences poses a threat to native culture.

Bundesbank rules out interest rates cut

FRANKFURT (Agencies) — The head of West Germany's central bank ruled out a cut of key interest rates, saying the excessive growth of money supply made such a reduction impossible.

The United States has been urging West Germany for months to reduce its discount rate from the current 3.5 per cent in order to spur economic growth and contribute to the reduction in international trade imbalances and the U.S. budget deficit.

Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl said the importance of discount rates in international trade policy discussions has been "tremendously exaggerated."

"There are a lot of interest rates in the money market beside the discount rate, so for that reason the focus on the discount rate is hard to understand," Mr. Poehl said at a news conference.

Mr. Poehl said Bonn will maintain key interest rates unchanged. The discount rate at 3.5 per cent and the Lombard rate at 5.5 per cent.

The discount rate is the rate at which German banks borrow from the government using bills as collateral and the Lombard rate is the rate applied when they use securities as collateral.

The Bundesbank set the 1987 target range for the West German

central bank money supply growth at three per cent to six per cent, Mr. Poehl said.

This would permit a slightly faster expansion of the West German economy in 1987, which Bundesbank assumes to have the potential to grow at 2.5 per cent, he said.

Economics Minister Martin Bangemann said the West German government expects the nation's economy to grow 2.5-3.0 per cent in 1987.

The Bundesbank's 1986 target range of the nation's key monetary indicator was 3.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent but the central bank said it had been overshoot by at least two percentage points.

Although the central bank money supply expansion has exceeded the 1986 target by more than two percentage points, there is negative inflation in West Germany for the first time since the 1950s, Mr. Poehl said.

Changes at U.S. central bank raises inflation fears

Meanwhile, personnel changes at the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) have led some Washington financial analysts to speculate that the U.S. central bank may no longer be the resolute inflation-buster that it was in

recent years. If inflation takes off again in the United States, the ripples will spread through the world economy.

The Fed exerts major influence on the U.S. economy by controlling the supply of money and thus determining whether interest rates rise or fall.

The analysts here point to the departure from the board of two members who were key allies of its chairman, Mr. Paul Volcker, who, since 1979, has favoured a tight monetary policy.

They say they are worried that new Reagan administration appointees, soon to number six on the seven-member board, will favour policies to stimulate economic growth rather than fight inflation, if the U.S. inflation rate should accelerate in any future period of business recession.

"I think it's a real, real problem," said Mr. Kenneth Guenther, executive vice-president of the independent Bankers Association of America.

Few analysts see the departures of governors Emmett Rice and Henry Wallich having an immediate impact. With inflation not a problem just now, the Fed has lately charted a course of easy credit supply and lower interest rates in order to keep the current

economic expansion going.

"Two new appointees probably are not going to have any short-term impact," said Mr. Mickey Levy, senior economist at Fidelity Bank.

"There will not be an impact until the Fed is boxed into a corner and has to make a choice between fighting inflation or trying to move the economy," he said.

Mr. Volcker was appointed in 1979 by president Jimmy Carter and ended the double-digit inflation of the 1970s. But the Reagan administration says he slammed on the brakes too hard and sent the United States into its deepest recession since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

President Reagan did reappoint him as chairman in 1983 but his current four-year term expires next August.

Incoming Senate Banking Committee Chairman William V. Roth Jr. said Mr. Volcker is losing his grip on a board where he is vastly outnumbered by Reagan appointees, so that he may be less willing to take as strong a stand against inflation as he has done.

This year alone, President Reagan has appointed Vice Chairman Manuel Johnson and governors Wayne Angell and Robert Heller. Ms. Martha Seger was sworn in as a board member.

Malaysia to cut oil production

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia will follow OPEC's decision and cut its crude oil output by 7.25 per cent, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Sunday.

"We will go along with OPEC... we'll cut back, but the important thing is to see whether the OPEC members adhere to their decision," Mr. Mahathir told reporters. Malaysia, not an OPEC member, produces 459,000 barrels of crude a day and a 7.25 per cent cutback would amount to 33,277 barrels.

World tobacco production drops slightly

WASHINGTON (AP) — World production of tobacco is down slightly this year from previous forecasts, the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) said.

A report by the department's foreign agricultural service put the total harvest at about 6.5 million tonnes, down five per cent from last year's record crop of 6.8 million tonnes. The earlier 1986 forecast, made last June, was 6.6 million tonnes.

China, the largest tobacco producer, is expected to produce 2.1 million tonnes, unchanged from the June forecast but down from the 1985 record of 2.3

million tonnes, the report said.

Total U.S. tobacco production this year is estimated at 540,000 tonnes, down 10 per cent from the June forecast because of a downward revision in acreage, the report said. Drought and smaller effective government quotas also are factors. Total U.S. production last year was 685,694 tonnes.

Filipino labour union opposes constitution; warns of strikes

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Delegates to a convention of the country's largest and most militant labour movement adopted a resolution Sunday opposing the draft constitution and warned of new strike actions.

Some 350 delegates to the convention of the May 1st Movement (KMU) adopted the resolution unanimously. KMU spokesman Crispin Beltran said the draft constitution, which goes before the voters in a ratification plebiscite on Feb. 2, "is not reflective of the interests and demands of the workers."

He did not elaborate, and it was not immediately clear how the 500,000-member union would actively oppose ratification.

Delegates were expected to elect a new president to succeed Rolando Olalia, who was found murdered on Nov. 13 in a still unsolved kidnapping-slaying.

"The Aquino government is continuously veering to the right," Beltran said. "Its rightist policies have left behind its liberal democratic traditions."

He said the delegates had agreed to cancel the movement's "policy of restraint" regarding strikes, which he said had been in effect since July. He said the union also renewed its support for Labour Minister Augusto Sanchez, who has asked to be relieved by the end of the month.

Mr. Sanchez is popular with the labour movement, but business and military leaders have asked for his removal.

Meanwhile Marxist rebels have accused the military command of

and rebel officials on Nov. 27.

The newspaper *Malaya* quoted Gen. Ramos Sunday as denying he had issued such guidelines. Efforts to contact a military spokesman Sunday were unsuccessful since government offices were closed for the weekend.

The ceasefire accord does not specifically forbid the rebels from collecting "war taxes," but states that the government is not restricted from stopping any "illegal taxation" during the truce.

Military officials consider rebel taxation "extortion," and have listed incidents of such collections among nearly 20 alleged rebel violations of the truce.

The National Ceasefire Monitoring Committee has yet to rule on any of the military claims of truce violations, in part because of an inability to agree on when and where rebels are permitted to carry arms.

An understanding arranged between the government and the front on Dec. 9 stated that armed rebels would stay out of "population centres." But the term remains undefined. Front officials say there should be no restriction on rebel movements in

and around villages and communities that the NPA has controlled for years.

Philippine military officials say the rebels control about 18 per cent of the country's 41,000 "barangays," or communities. Some U.S. estimates put the figure at closer to 33 per cent.

Marcos wants to return

Former President Ferdinand Marcos told followers in a radio interview Sunday he wants to return to the Philippines and called on them to unite against those "who would fancy Communism."

In a telephone interview from his exile in Hawaii, Marcos described a government offer to allow his 94-year-old mother to leave for the United States as a "cruel joke."

The interview was aired by DZEC, a pro-Marcos private radio station.

Marcos said President Aquino's refusal to allow him to return for the funeral of his sister, Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, "is symptomatic of the society of slavery that has been imposed on the Filipino people."

Soviet dissident's return home depends on freedom

LONDON (AP) — Soviet poet Irina Ratushinskaya, in London for medical treatment after more than three years in prison, says she wants to go home but first must find out whether freedom of speech exists in the Soviet Union.

In a full-page interview published Sunday in the liberal weekly *The Observer*, the 32-year-old poet was asked whether she and her husband, human-rights activist Igor Geraschenko, planned to return when their three-month Soviet exit visas expire.

"It depends," she was quoted as saying. "We want to go back. But we want first to know if the things that matter — freedom to speak, to know the truth — are really there."

Ms. Ratushinskaya said she wanted to publish 150 poems she composed in prison and memorised after secretly carving them on a bar of soap with a match. She said she also planned to write children's story "about reversible and irreversible changes."

Ms. Ratushinskaya was sentenced in March 1983 to a seven-year prison term to be followed by five years in exile for anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. She was unexpectedly released on Oct. 9 and arrived Thursday in London, where she will be treated for heart and lung ailments.

Bush presidential standing slips in poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President George Bush's standing in the 1988 presidential race has slipped among fellow Republicans surveyed in a poll conducted after the Iran-contra revelations.

The U.S. News and World Report-CNN poll, conducted on Dec. 9-11 by the Roper Organisation, showed Mr. Bush as the choice of 29 per cent of Republicans.

Twenty per cent selected Senate majority leader Bob Dole of Kansas, who has taken a prominent role in urging the administration to disclose all the facts surrounding the shipment of arms to Iran and the diversion of proceeds to the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

That compares with a NBC-Wall Street Journal poll four months earlier in which 43 per cent preferred Bush, 10 per cent picked Sen. Dole and 5 per cent named former Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee.

In a May 15-19, Washington Post-ABC News telephone poll of 1,506 people, 58 per cent preferred Bush, 14 per cent picked Mr. Baker and 12 per cent named Sen. Dole.

The U.S. News-CNN survey of 1,003 adults, conducted by telephone, has a margin of error of 3 per cent.

Twelve per cent of the respondents chose Mr. Baker, nine per cent named Rep. Jack Kemp of New York; 4 per cent, Television Evangelist Pat Robertson; 3 per cent, former Delaware Gov. Pierre Du Pont; 1 per cent, Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada; 6 per cent, none of them, and 14 per cent, don't know.

The NBC-Wall Street Journal poll, in which about 1,600 adults were surveyed by telephone on Aug. 11-12, also had an error margin of 3 per cent, as did the Post-ABC survey.

U.S. shuttle escape device is 'sure bet'

TITUSVILLE, Florida (AP) — A crew escape system almost certainly will be installed in the space shuttle *Discovery* before its scheduled launch in 1988, a U.S. space agency administrator says.

Proposals for an emergency bail-out system have ranged from ejection seats to an entire crew escape vehicle, but Tip Talone, shuttle flow director, would not say which idea the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was considering.

Discovery is scheduled for launch on Feb. 18, 1988, in the first shuttle mission since Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff on Jan. 28, killing all seven astronauts aboard.

The presidential commission that investigated the disaster, blamed on a leak of hot gases through a bad seal on a rocket booster, recommended that NASA try to develop an escape system for use when the shuttle is gliding to a landing.

But the panel conceded that no escape mechanism could have saved the Challenger crew while the powerful boosters were firing.

It's a "90 per cent bet" an escape mechanism will be installed in *Discovery*, said Mr. Talone, commenting as he assessed the craft for a status report to NASA headquarters.

"The astronauts have final vote on all changes, and I just can't imagine them giving this (an escape system) up," Mr. Talone said. "Our scheduling for a Feb. 18 launch hasn't taken into account installing an escape system, but I don't think it would set us back."

Meanwhile the New York Times reported Sunday that two top U.S. space officials ordered a review of trouble with the seals on the space shuttle's rockets nearly two years before the Challenger disaster, but left their posts before following up.

The Times drew its report from transcripts of interviews conducted by staff members of the presidential commission that investigated the Jan. 28 explosion that killed seven astronauts. Failed rocket seals were blamed for the disaster.

The staff members interviewed Lt.-Gen. James Abrahamson, who was associate administrator of NASA in charge of all space flight, and Hans Mark, the deputy administrator and the agency's No. 2 official, although those officials were not called to testify before the commission, the Times said.

Hamburg demonstrators clash with police

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Street clashes between leftist militants and riot police during a demonstration by 6,500 people against tenant evictions in Hamburg left 45 injured, West German authorities said.

Fourteen of the injured were policemen, including one who suffered a serious head wound and had to be hospitalised, said a Hamburg Police spokesman who declined to be identified.

Police reported three arrests during the rally, organised by the Green-Alternative List Party, the German Communist Party, the Young Socialists and university student groups.

The demonstrators were

3 killed, 1 missing in U.S. oil barge blast

PINEY POINT, Maryland (AP) — A petroleum barge explosion Saturday that was heard 27 kilometres away killed three workers and injured a fourth, authorities said. A fifth worker was missing.

Four workers were on the 300-by-100 foot (90-by-30 metres) barge at the Stuart Petroleum Co. bulk storage facility cleaning out remnants of a load of aviation fuel when the blast occurred early Saturday, said Bob Thomas, a spokesman for the Maryland state fire Marshall's office.

The fifth worker was on a pier, he said.

"They were vacuuming up the remnants so they could store diesel fuel on the barge," said Thomas. "That's when it's most dangerous because of the vapours

on it than if a barge is full." The barge was heavily charred and a six-metre section of the pier was blown away, Thomas said. The explosion, heard more than 27 kilometres away, also destroyed at least one unoccupied car parked near the pier, he said.

One hundred firefighters battled the blaze for two hours before bringing it under control, Thomas said.

Divers were preparing to search the area for the missing worker, Thomas said.

The injured worker, Walter Higgs, was in stable condition at St. Mary's Hospital, Thomas said. He was blown off the pier into the water.

Identities of the dead and missing workers were not released.

Police hunt white gang for killing black New Yorker

NEW YORK (R) — New York police hunted Sunday for a gang of whites who assaulted three blacks in what city mayor Edward Koch called a crime of racial bigotry.

Police said one of the blacks, Michael Griffith, 23, was struck by a car and killed Saturday as he tried to flee the gang of up to 12 whites.

The driver of the car was not believed to have any connection with the gang and was not charged, police said.

"All crimes are terrible, but crimes involving racial bigotry are the absolute worst," Mayor Koch

told a news conference. "This incident can only be talked about as rivaling the kind of lynching party that took place in the deep south," Mr. Koch said. "This is the No. 1 case in the city."

Griffith and two companions were severely beaten after their car broke down in a mainly white middle-class district of the Borough of Queens, police said.

Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward assigned 50 officers to hunt the attackers. A reward of \$10,000 has been offered for information leading to arrests.

Sakharov, Bonner to return to Moscow on Tuesday

MOSCOW (AP) — Dissident Andrei Sakharov said Sunday he and his wife Yelena Bonner will return to Moscow by train Tuesday morning and said there were no conditions on his freedom from six years of internal exile.

The 65-year-old physicist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate sounded alert and friendly in a brief telephone interview from his exile home in the closed city of Gorky. He said Soviet authorities had placed no conditions on his return to Moscow.

Sakharov said he did not plan to give interviews on his return, but said this was a personal wish and not a condition of his release from his exile.

"We are planning to be in Moscow on Tuesday morning," Sakharov said, adding the train leaves Gorky Monday night.

Asked why he thought Soviet officials decided to free him at this time, Sakharov said: "I don't know."

"And this is already turning into an interview," he added. He excused himself from further comment, saying he was busy with preparations for the move.

Moscow friends of Sakharov and his wife Yelena Bonner who have spoken with the dissident since his release from exile were announced Friday said he seemed happy with the Kremlin's decision to end his term and pardon Mrs. Bonner from a five-year exile sentence on charges of anti-Soviet slander.

Family members in the United States said Sakharov used the occasion of a personal conversation with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to make a plea on behalf of other "prisoners of conscience."

Soviet officials have not explained the reasons behind their decision to free Sakharov and Mrs. Bonner, the country's most prominent foes of Kremlin policies on human rights, censorship and foreign affairs.

Iran holds caviar smugglers

LONDON (R) — Iranian police arrested a ring of caviar smugglers who shipped nine tonnes of the fishy delicacy to Denmark inside hollowed-out water melons, the Iranian News Agency IRNA has reported. The agency, received in London, quoted the head of the Tribunal for Economic Affairs as saying those arrested included two customs officials who had taken bribes from the smugglers.

Some Israeli bakeries are refusing to make traditional jam-filled doughnuts for the Jewish Hanukkah festival because the government has fixed the prices they can charge. The Trade Ministry, responsible for setting prices under an 18-month austerity programme, has set a maximum charge of 47 cents on holiday doughnuts weighing 100 grammes (3.5 ounces). The deep-fried delicacies, called Sufganiot in Hebrew, are an annual treat in Israel for the eight-day Hanukkah festival which begins this year on Friday night.

Israel puts squeeze on holding doughnuts

TEL AVIV (R) — Some Israeli bakeries are refusing to make traditional jam-filled doughnuts for the Jewish Hanukkah festival because the government has fixed the prices they can charge. The Trade Ministry, responsible for setting prices under an 18-month austerity programme, has set a maximum charge of 47 cents on holiday doughnuts weighing 100 grammes (3.5 ounces). The deep-fried delicacies, called Sufganiot in Hebrew, are an annual treat in Israel for the eight-day Hanukkah festival which begins this year on Friday night.

38 whales die in second beaching

EASTHAM, Massachusetts (AP) — Thirty-eight pilot whales died after beaching themselves along the Cape Cod Coast, with about a dozen given lethal injections to end their suffering, marine officials have said. Five of the giant mammals that ran aground on the sand Friday afternoon survived despite the crush of their own weight on their internal organs, said Paul Sieswerda, curator of fishes and mammals at the New England Aquarium. The beaching was the deadliest of the year along Cape Cod. On Dec. 3, 57 pilot whales stranded themselves about a kilometre away and 26 died. Sieswerda said whale experts, uncertain why the giant mammals beach themselves, will research the habits of the whales for clues. Feeding habits, storms and tides may play a role, he said.

Bird-plagued town searches for cure

TUPELO, Mississippi (AP) — The millions of pesky blackbirds that flock to Tupelo every year appear to have learned of the city's plans to wipe them out, because they've spread themselves thin over the area. The city had set aside \$30,000 to kill the birds once and for all by spraying them from a helicopter with a detergent solution to wash the oil from their feathers, and then dousing them with cold water from fire trucks to freeze them to death. But the city has been waiting for the right moment since October as the birds have spread out over 23 acres in the city and surrounding areas. "Until we get them concentrated in one area, the spraying wouldn't be effective," George Walsh, public works director, said. Now officials are considering cutting down the cedar trees where the birds tend to roost. Nearly 2 million blackbirds have returned to roost this year, and a million more are expected by January, raising fears that the birds will bring a fungus that causes histoplasmosis, a rare pneumonia-like respiratory illness in humans.

Japanese yell their troubles away

TOKYO (AP) — An office worker shouted the name of a popular singer, a student shrieked about the low value of the yen and an apartment manager yelled encouragement to volcano victims to win the Sixth Annual Halls Year-End Shouting Contest on Saturday. The office worker, 23-year-old "Rumi" Kuriyama, shrieked "Fumika Kyasee Aah" to win 50,000 yen (\$310) in the women's division of the Sixth Annual Halls Year-End Shouting Contest. The screaming, measuring 115.4 decibels, was aimed at a singer, Fumika Kyasee, of the popular group Cheekers. Enki Yashiki, a 22-year-old worker, took the men's title with a 118.2-decibel roar for "Baka" (idiot). Many people, including students, housewives, an art museum director, a bathhouse operator and a pharmacist, yelled about their troubles at the foot of Tokyo skyscrapers. Participants vented their feelings about low wages and were judged on language and manner of delivery.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHAHRI
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THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ J 5 3
♥ A 3
♦ A 5 2
♣ A 7 5 3

WEST
♠ A K Q 4
♥ 10
♦ K Q 7 6 4 3
♣ J 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 8
♥ J 6 4 3
♦ J 10
♣ 10 8 6 4

SOUTH
♠ 7 6 2
♥ K Q 8 7 5
♦ 9
♣ K Q 9

The bidding:
West North East South
1 Pass Pass 2
Pass 4 Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.

Good technique demands that you make some plays as a matter of course. If it turns out that they were unnecessary, nothing has been lost. But if they were vital...

South's balancing bid of two hearts showed about the equivalent of an opening bid with at least a six-card heart suit. Any time you hold three aces and partner has entered the bidding, you have a good hand, so North lost no time in getting to game.

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